AFTER THE BATTLE

SPECIAL ISSUE

SUPREME HQs FOR D-DAY

Number 84

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Front Cover: Reproductions of documents dealing with the movement of SHAEF headquarters, superimposed with an original SHAEF formation patch from Frank Holford's collection.

Centre Pages: Frequently seen but rarely captioned correctly, this picture was taken when the Allied commanders were introduced to the press on February 1, 1944. The location was the boardroom of the British Aluminium Co. Ltd on the sixth (US seventh) floor of Norfolk House, St James's Square, London. (Popperfoto) *Inset:* Today, this precise area is used by the accounts section of Lamco Paper Sales Ltd.

Rear Cover: Exactly 50 years after 'Sharpener' was set up, the Editor of *After the Battle* stands on the site of General Eisenhower's advanced command post near Portsmouth, never before identified correctly.

Acknowledgements: The Editor is indebted to the following for their generous help and assistance in the production of this issue: Andy Bridgland, T. P. Bennett & Sons; Jeff Budge and Rod Penwell, British Alcan Aluminium plc; Christine Grant and Tamara McAvie of COMNAVACTUK; Richard Harries for information on 'Widewing' from his unpublished account; Kevin Hodges, Lamco Paper Sales Ltd; James Leyerzapf and Kathleen Struss, Dwight D. Eisenhower Library; Nabil W. Naaman, Telegraph Cottage; and SHAEF veterans Dick James (UK) and Colonel 'Smokey' Stover (USA).

Photo Credits: BMT – Bushey Museum Trust; EL – Dwight D. Eisenhower Library; HD – Hulton Deutsch; IWM – Imperial War Museum; LTM – London Transport Museum; NA – National Archives; NRM – National Railway Museum; RAF – Royal Air Force; SC – Signal Corps; UPI – United Press International; USA – US Army; USN – US Navy.

1942. Lieutenant General Eisenhower, commander of the European Theater of Operations, with his staff in his office on the first (US second) floor of 20 Grosvenor Square, London. L–R: Albert Gilbey, civilian driver; Sergeant Michael J. McKeogh, orderley; Kay Summersby, driver; Captain Ernest 'Tex' Lee, aide-de-camp; General Mark Clark, Eisenhower's second-in-command; Commander Harry Butcher, naval aide; Brigadier General Walter Bedell Smith, Chief-of-Staff; Colonel Thomas J. Davis, Adjutant General; Mary Jacqua, secretary; and Corporal Marshall, stenographer. (NA)

1944. Eisenhower, now with four stars, back in his office on January 18, having just arrived in London as Allied Supreme Commander for Operation 'Overlord'. (SC)

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS FOR D-DAY

Soon after Japan's attack upon Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and Hitler's subsequent declaration of war upon the United States, the political alignment which had developed between Great Britain and America became a firm military alliance. At the 'Arcadia' conference, held in Washington from December 1941 to January 1942, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, assisted by their respective top military aides and advisers, agreed that the war should be conducted under the direction of the (Allied) Combined Chiefs-of-Staff, and that America's policy was to defeat Germany before Japan.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, called from provincial duty to Washington just after Pearl Harbor by the American Army Chief-of-Staff, General George C. Marshall, soon changed his focus of attention from the Pacific area to Europe. He became Marshall's chief war planner and devised Operation 'Roundup', an Allied invasion of France from Britain to be mounted in 1943. Closely associated was Operation 'Bolero', the build-up of US armed forces in Britain, beginning in 1942. In June 1942, Eisenhower arrived in Britain to take up the post of American Commander, European Theater of Operations (ETO).

During 1942, international relations between the Western Allies (Great Britain and the United States) and the Soviet Union centred on the opening of a second front in the west which would help to relieve the massive German pressure on Russia in the east. In addition to Eisenhower's Operation 'Roundup' planned for 1943, a rescue proposal was put forward, Operation 'Sledgehammer', to mount a small invasion of Normandy in 1942. President Roosevelt had by now effectively committed himself to do at least something to assist Russia before the end of the year. The upshot was that Great Britain persuaded the United States that the second front in 1942 should be mounted not in Europe but rather in north-west Africa. Operation 'Torch', Anglo-American landings in Morocco and Algeria in November, placed the Allied forces in the rear of the German-Italian onslaught upon Egypt and helped lead ultimately to the clearing of the Axis forces from Africa.

By Clifford Williams

General Eisenhower arrived in London by train late on Saturday, January 15, 1944, his aircraft having been diverted to Prestwick in Scotland because of fog. The following Tuesday a photo session was arranged for the press to meet the new commander of SHAEF — the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force. (SC)

NORFOLK HOUSE

Norfolk House, the first Allied Force Headquarters (AFHQ), was erected in the late-1930s on the site of the town house of the Dukes of Norfolk in St James's Square, London. During August 1942, the planning for 'Torch', which involved a good deal of transatlantic communication, took place here. General Eisenhower, the designated commander of the operation, was at this time working in his office at 20 Grosvenor Square, whilst General Mark W. Clark, the deputy commander, was in charge at Norfolk House.

Eisenhower organised Allied Force Headquarters from the outset as a balanced team of Britons and Americans and took it with him when he left the UK, first for Gibraltar, a few days before the 'Torch' invasion went in on November 8, and then on to Algiers.

On February 4, 1943, Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews, until then Commanding General of US forces in the Middle East, arrived in Britain to succeed Eisenhower as ETO commander.

Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Morgan, commander of First Corps District in Lincolnshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire, was placed under General Eisenhower's orders in October 1942 when the preparations for Operation 'Torch' were well advanced. Morgan met the Allied leader at Norfolk House in his capacity as commander of Force 125, the Northern Task Force (which, in the event, was not actually used).

At the Casablanca conference, attended by Roosevelt, Churchill and the Combined Chiefs-of-Staff in January 1943, the decision was taken to mount the invasion of France in the spring of 1944. Although no Supreme Commander of this operation was to be selected until almost a year later, it was decided that a Chief-of-Staff should be appointed in the meantime to prepare and plan for it. Morgan learned that he was to become the Chief-of-Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander-designate (COSSAC) on March 12, 1943. He was able to install himself in an office in Norfolk House, with a small staff, being appointed to his new post at the beginning of April.

Morgan testifies that as the first directive to be issued by the Combined Chiefs-of-Staff to COSSAC was being evolved in March/April 1943, the Chiefs accepted two suggestions from him: (1) that the plans which were to be made by his team should actually be executed and (2) that COSSAC should have a balanced Anglo-American organisation. Thus, COSSAC can be said to have derived its Allied principle directly from AFHQ.

In his first organisational diagram, made at an early stage, Morgan divided his projected overall staff into three sections: (1) Intelligence, (2) Operations, and (3) Administration. Each section consisted of naval, army and air arms, and each arm had equal British and US representation. There were separate links between the three sections for each arm. Intermediate between the three sections and COSSAC (and his deputy) were Principal Staff Officers (PSOs) of both nationalities. There was also a central secretariat for use by COSSAC and the PSOs.

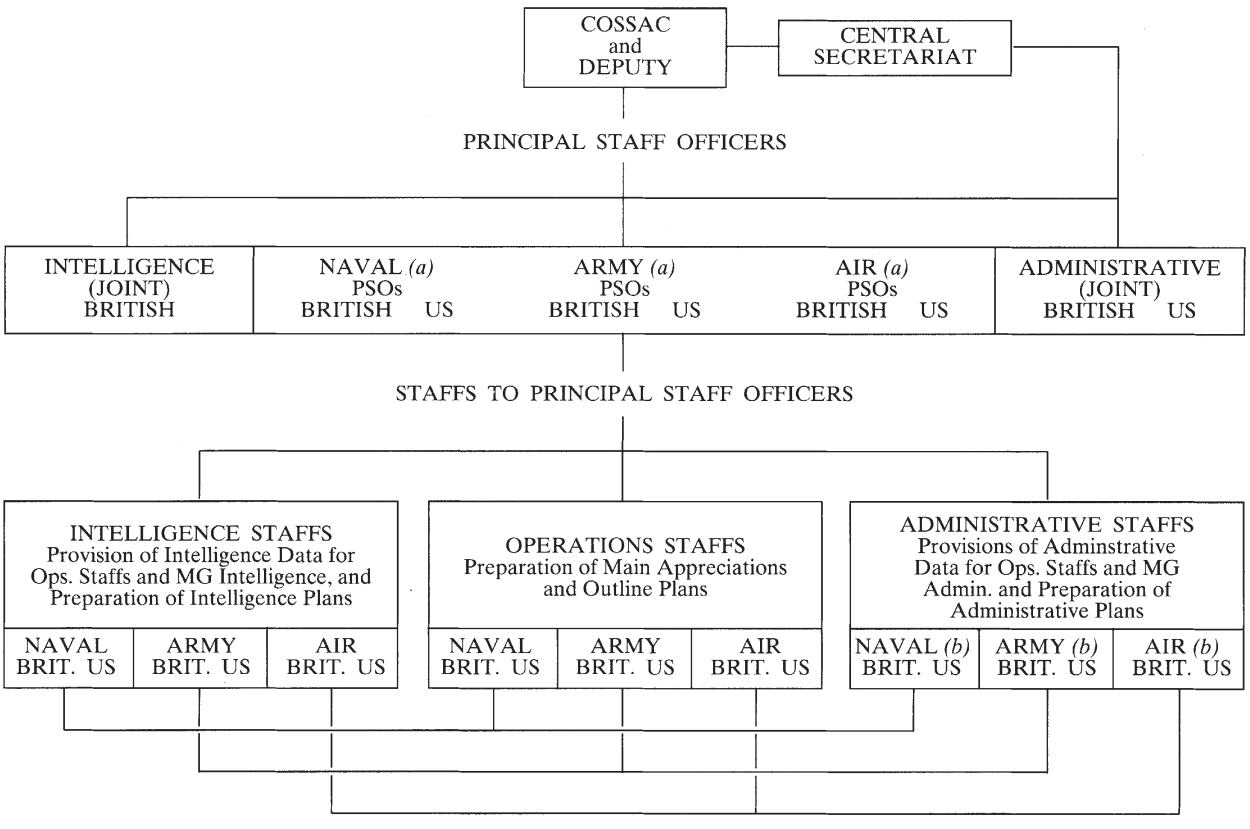
The Combined Chiefs issued their first directive to Morgan on April 26, its object being simply stated as being to 'defeat the German fighting forces in north-west Europe'. To this end, forces were to assembled in readiness and were to undertake limited operations.

The headquarters established by the Chief-of-Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander (COSSAC), Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Morgan, were located in Norfolk House in St James's Square, the Allied Force HQ of 1942. According to Morgan, the building had been occupied by Lloyds Bank, and he derived pleasure from conducting business in the directors' boardroom, yet Lloyds themselves have no record of ever having had an office there. It was the premises of the British Aluminium Co. Ltd and they only regained possession in 1950, the government being very reluctant to relinquish its hold on the property.

When British Aluminium fell on hard times in the 1970s, they had to sell the lease which was taken up by UK Provident. They found the building was suffering from a variety of problems, and so began a major rebuilding programme in 1977. (T. P. Bennett)

A plaque was mounted on the far left of the façade on the third anniversary of D-Day, commemorating the use of the building by General Eisenhower, both for Operation 'Torch' in 1942 and two years later for 'Overlord'. There was no official unveiling, a representative from the Ministry of Works merely removing the cardboard covering on the morning of June 6, 1947. As far as 'Torch' was concerned, General Clark wrote that because Norfolk House was their secret planning HQ, Eisenhower rarely came over in case his appearance might attract the attention of enemy agents. Instead, Clark would go to 20 Grosvenor Square (less than a mile away) several times a day. A second plaque (on the right) was dedicated by a delegation from the United States on June 4, 1990 to mark the centenary of the General's birth. (IWM)

ORIGINAL COSSAC ORGANISATION CHART


COSSAC and DEPUTY
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT
PRINCIPAL STAFF OFFICERS
INTELLIGENCE (JOINT) BRITISH
NAVAL (a) PSOs BRITISH US
ARMY (a) PSOs BRITISH US
AIR (a) PSOs BRITISH US
ADMINISTRATIVE (JOINT) BRITISH US
STAFFS TO PRINCIPAL STAFF OFFICERS
INTELLIGENCE STAFFS Provision of Intelligence Data for Ops. Staffs and MG Intelligence, and Preparation of Intelligence Plans
NAVAL BRIT. US
ARMY BRIT. US
AIR BRIT. US
OPERATIONS STAFFS Preparation of Main Appreciations and Outline Plans
NAVAL BRIT. US
ARMY BRIT. US
AIR BRIT. US
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFS Provisions of Adminstrative Data for Ops. Staffs and MG Admin. and Preparation of Administrative Plans
NAVAL (b) BRIT. US
ARMY (b) BRIT. US
AIR (b) BRIT. US

NOTES – *(a)* Ops Principal Staff Officers are responsible for representing Force Commanders' views to COSSAC.
(b) Heads of Administrative Staffs are responsible, through their respective Principal Staff Officers or Major-General Admin., as appropriate, for incorporating the Force Commanders' broad administrative requirements in the administrative plans submitted to COSSAC for approval.

Early in 1943, General Morgan was appointed to the task of planning a cross-Channel invasion, and he began work in one room of Norfolk House with only his ADC, a driver and two orderlies. Confirmation of his position as COSSAC came on April 13, whereupon he drew up a tentative organisational chart. Brigadier General Ray W. Barker, from the headquarters of the European Theater of Operations, United States Army (ETOUSA), became his deputy.

Officially, No. 20 Grosvenor Square was 'Headquarters ETOUSA'. It stood on the site of the old Italian Embassy demolished in 1933, the lessees of the new building, which consisted of separate residential apartments, being a company simply listed in the records of Grosvenor Estates as '20 Grosvenor Square Ltd'. (SC)

GROSVENOR SQUARE

Throughout most of 1943, Allied Force Headquarters was located at Algiers where General Eisenhower had taken it from Gibraltar soon after Operation 'Torch' had been successfully mounted. As the Tunisian campaign closed, and the Allies invaded first Sicily and then Italy, the general made use of several forward command posts in Africa, transferring also for a short time in December to Caserta on the Italian mainland. Towards the end of 1943, it was rumoured that the American Chief-of-Staff, General George Marshall, would become the Supreme Commander for the 'Overlord' operation. Eisenhower fully expected that he would then be returned to Washington to take over Marshall's job.

By early November, the appointments had been made of Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay as Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief, Expeditionary Force (ANCXF) and Air Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory as commander of the Allied Expeditionary Air Force (AEAF).

In extension of the Allied conference held at Cairo in November 1943 ('Sextant'), Churchill and Roosevelt travelled to meet the Soviet leader, Marshal Stalin, at Teheran. Stalin was in favour of the proposed landing in Normandy and of the plan for a simultaneous smaller landing in the south of France, but not of any Anglo-American operations in the eastern Mediterranean. He wanted to know who the Supreme Commander for 'Overlord' would be, but was told that this had not yet been decided.

Whilst returning from Cairo, President Roosevelt was met by General Eisenhower at Tunis airport on December 7. As they drove off in the car, Roosevelt turned to the general and told him that he was to be the Supreme Commander for 'Overlord'. Before returning to London, however, he left North Africa at the end of December for two weeks leave in America, on the direct orders of General Marshall.

Eisenhower arrived in London by train from Prestwick Airport, Scotland, late on January 15, 1944, after his return flight from the USA, and moved into Hays Lodge, a small town house on Chesterfield Hill, Mayfair, which had been found by his British aide, Lieutenant-Colonel James Gault.

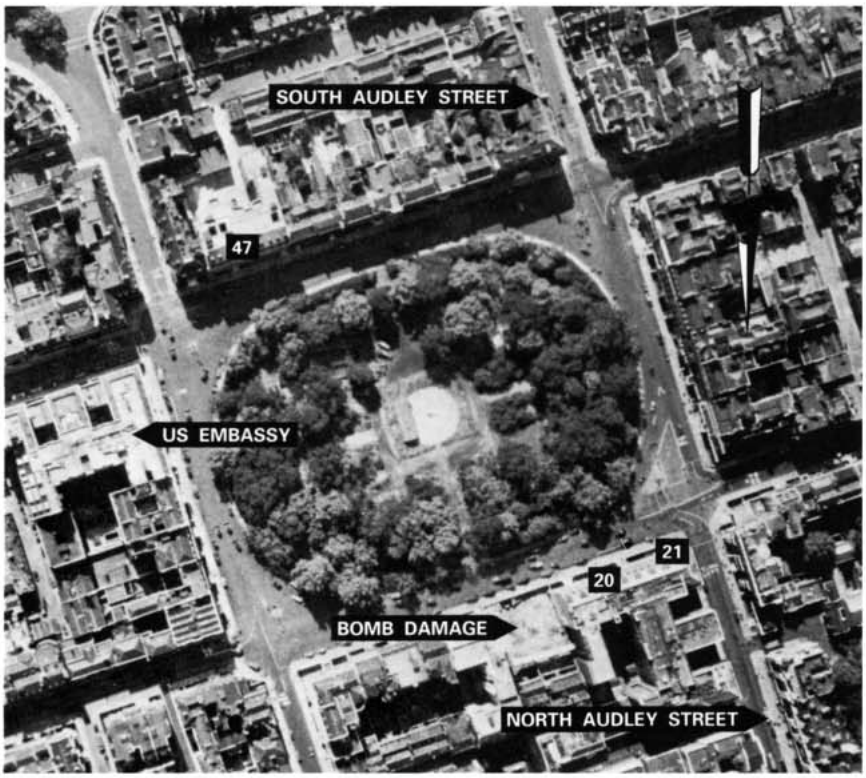
Kay Summersby, a member of Britain's Motor Transport Corps, began driving for the American Embassy in 1941, and became Eisenhower's personal chauffeuse in 1942. Later, in 1944, she was enrolled in the US Women's Army Corps as a lieutenant. Here, she is pictured with the General's Cadillac limousine — a Model 75 — in front of the bricked-up windows of No. 20. Lieutenant-Colonel James Gault, Eisenhower's British aide, warned his chief that he thought it unwise of him to have a woman driver because the British and other Allies would not understand him having an attractive driver and immediately assume she was his mistress. The General ignored the warning; rumours did circulate, finally being given credence by Kay Summersby in her book *Past Forgetting* published after her death in 1975. (UPI)

Left: **Brigadier General Daniel Noce of the G-3 Section of ETOUSA, described as an expert on landing craft operations, pictured in his office located on the third (US fourth) floor in May 1943. (SC)** *Right:* **In July 1947, the temporary wartime tenure of No. 20 was formalised in an assignment of the lease to the United States of America, the building now housing the HQ of the US Naval Forces in Europe. While the majority of the wartime apartments have now been converted into offices, fortunately this particular suite has been retained with its original panelling and fireplace as a London office for Admiral Jeremy M. Boorda, CINCUSNAVEUR, based in Naples. His deputy, Rear Admiral David R. Morris, kindly stood in for us, making a nice nostalgic comparison taken 50 years to the day when Eisenhower took charge, as Admiral Morris's headquarters is directly involved with organising the programme to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day.**

Above: **When we visited No. 20, we were shown the office on the second (US third) floor of the Fleet Marine Officer, overlooking North Audley Street on the left, as the room believed to be Eisenhower's office (see page 1). However, we needed concrete proof so Cliff Williams, the British contact and co-ordinator for the SHAEF veterans' and author of this feature, put us in touch with Dick James. He had worked in the G-2 section in the building during the war and, fortunately, his office was just down the corridor from Eisenhower. Having married a British girl, and made his home in East London after the war, Dick was also well aware of the confusion over the different American and British terminology when identifying floors, but we quickly established that Ike's office was right on the corner (actually in the white-faced building which is nominally No. 21) on the first floor above ground level. Eisenhower's statue (by Robert Dean), unveiled on January 23, 1989 by the Prime Minster, the Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, and the US Ambassador, Charles Price, looks directly toward his former office.**

Today, this area of the building, with its windows covered up, is used for operational purposes, the conference room being devoted, very appropriately, to planning the US Navy participation in D-Day 1994. Dick James (second left) reminisces with Lieutenant Patrick Holub (left) and DMI (SW) Mark Hopkins seated next to your Editor.

According to Commander Harry Butcher, whose main task as Eisenhower's aide was to maintain a narrative of daily events, the publicity surrounding the publication of the pictures taken on January 18 at No. 20 led to the provision of alternative office accommodation at No. 47 on the opposite side of the square. This apartment block, which comprised 17 separate flats in 1939, was in 1944 the United States UK Base headquarters with the commanding general located in Room 110. Today No. 47 is once again private residences leased by Grand Metropolitan Hotels Ltd.



During the war, Grosvenor Square had become known as Eisenhower Platz, yet it was to the memory of President Roosevelt that it was dedicated after the war was over. While Grosvenor Estates retained title to the land, the square itself was created a public place, the trees thinned out and the gardens landscaped as a suitable setting for the Roosevelt Memorial unveiled by his wife, Eleanor, in April 1948. (USN)

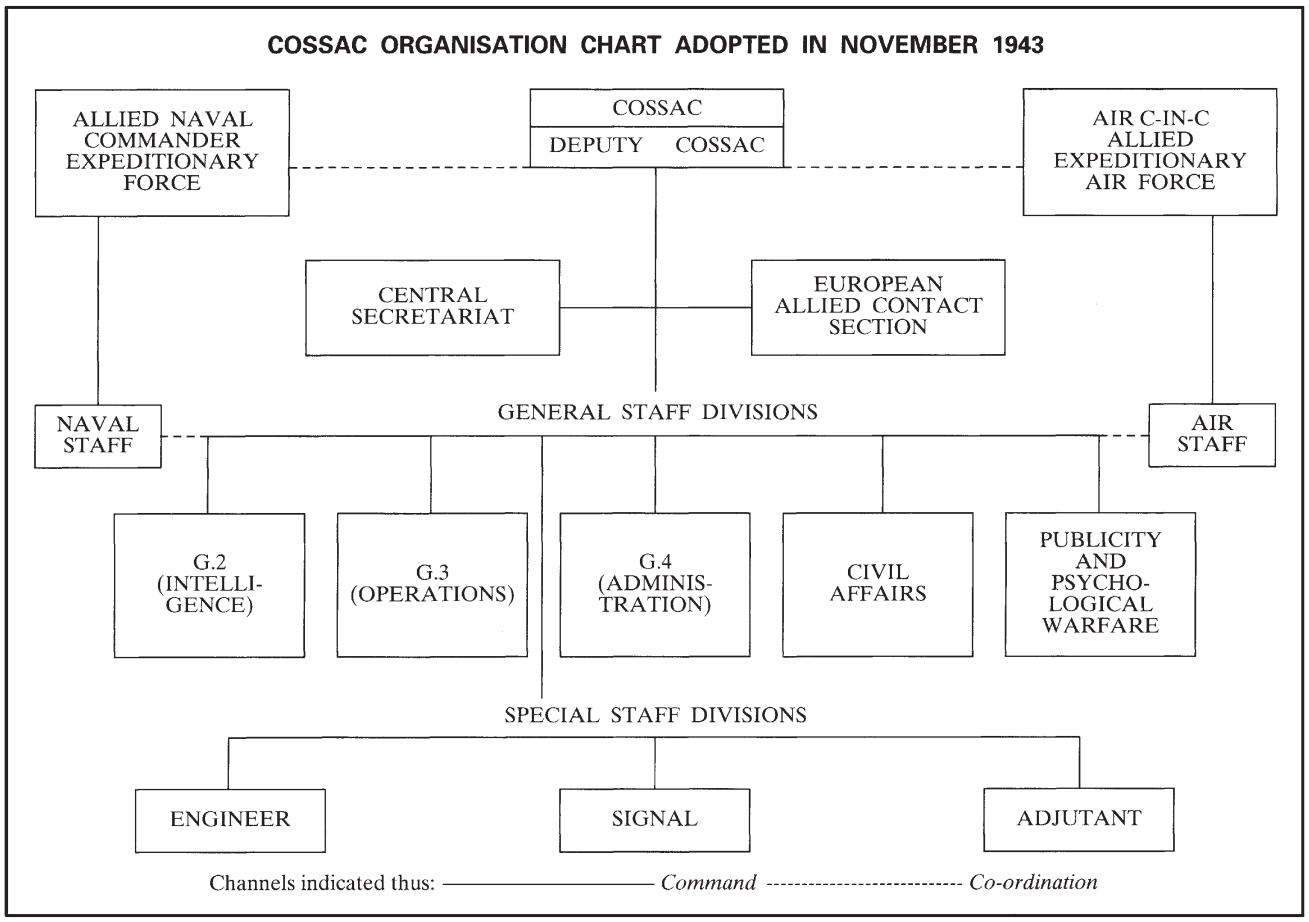
In a communiqué issued on the evening of Sunday, January 16, it was announced that SHAEF, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, had been set up and that General Eisenhower had taken over as Supreme Commander-in-Chief. COSSAC, the planning agency which had been led by General Morgan since March 1943, was now integrated with SHAEF. Office space was found for the Supreme Commander at 47 Grosvenor Square, the headquarters of the US Base Organisation, an important move for security reasons alone after several British magazines published photo spreads linking Eisenhower with the location of his 1942 headquarters.

Eisenhower's future SHAEF staff was formed partly from COSSAC and partly from AFHQ. Coming back from the Mediterranean with him were his deputy commander, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, and his Chief-of-Staff, General Walter Bedell Smith. On one occasion, Smith disagreed with the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field-Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, who thought too many of the best men were being filched from the Mediterranean — namely General Kenneth Strong (G-2), General Humphrey Gale (Administration), and General J. F. M. Whiteley (G-3). The actual Chief-of-Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander, General Morgan, agreed to serve under Smith as his deputy.

The COSSAC staff had already spilled out of Norfolk House into other offices in London's West End, for instance the upper floor of Peter Robinson's store at Oxford Circus. Senate House, the administrative centre of London University, already occupied by the Ministry of Information, was also used by SHAEF's Public Relations Division for press conferences. There were also at least two underground bunkers, one near Goodge Street underground station which had communications facilities (originally taken over in January 1944 as a precaution against the anticipated V-weapon bombardment, it opened on March 11), and another, built in the base of a gas holder in Horseferry Road, which was used by G-4 of SHAEF.

General Bernard L. Montgomery, chosen to command the land forces, had been sent ahead to London by Eisenhower to prepare for the revision of the COSSAC plan for the invasion of Normandy. Many Allied leaders, including Montgomery, Churchill and Eisenhower himself, had felt that the plan to land three divisions opposite Caen was insufficiently strong, and that at least five divisions would be necessary. Montgomery invited the COSSAC planners, Major General Charles A. West and Brigadier Kenneth G. McLean, to a conference at 21st Army Group Headquarters in St Paul's School, Hammersmith, during the first week of January 1944 and worked with them to revise the plan.

Another 'memorial' of sorts — the emergency bunker provided for SHAEF at Goodge Street — renamed by Security Archives 'The Eisenhower Centre' when they leased the former deep shelter in 1986. It had last been used as a staging post for troops during the 1956 Suez operation; now, it is the repository of over a million master recording tapes and videos, together with the entire Channel Four TV footage and over 20,000 mortgage deeds. The terms of the £40,000 per annum lease specify that the bunker must be relinquished within a month of a third world war being declared.



COSSAC's plan for 'Overlord' was accepted by the 'Quadrant' conference (which took place in Quebec) in August 1943, at which point the former planning agency became the operational body charged with putting the plan into effect. When General Barker streamlined Morgan's original arrangements and introduced the American 'G' system, the organisational nucleus of SHAEF was in place. As the conquest and occupation of Germany would inevitably involve the Allies in relations with liberated countries, the revised organisational diagram contained a European Allied Contact Section linked to the central secretariat and a Civil Affairs Division (which became G-5). However, relations between the Allies and the most probable future French government, under Général Charles de Gaulle, were far from satisfactory.

While COSSAC did not have a formation insignia, General Morgan set the wheels in motion for the creation of a suitable emblem for SHAEF. In the autumn of 1943, he appointed a committee to oversee the matter which, in turn, asked the Royal College of Heralds to submit a design. Butcher explains that this was not acceptable, so Colonel Norman Lack, assisted by an ATS girl, Corporal Doreen Goodall, produced a revised version incorporating a flaming sword based on the one on the US 2nd Division Memorial in Washington. The final design was approved by Eisenhower on December 20, 1943, and by March 1944 it was in general use. Its correct heraldic interpretation was described as: 'Upon a field of heraldic sable [black], representing the darkness of Nazi oppression, is shown the sword of liberation in the form of a crusader's sword, the flames arising from the hilt and leaping up the blade. This represents avenging justice by which the enemy power will be broken in Nazi-dominated Europe. Above the sword is a rainbow, emblematic of hope, containing all the colours of which the National Flags of the Allies are composed. The heraldic chief of azure above the rainbow is emblematic of a state of peace and tranquillity, the restoration of which to the enslaved people is the objective of the United Nations.' (IWM)

The photo-call on February 1 for members of the world's press to picture the Allied commanders resulted in dozens of photographs being taken of the event — from the formal line-up around the tables (see also centre pages) to the informal group shots. Because the location was censored at the time, the pictures have since been captioned as having been taken at a variety of places: 'General Eisenhower's headquarters'; 'Southwick House'; 'Grosvenor Square' and so on, instead of in the boardroom at Norfolk House. (HD & IWM)

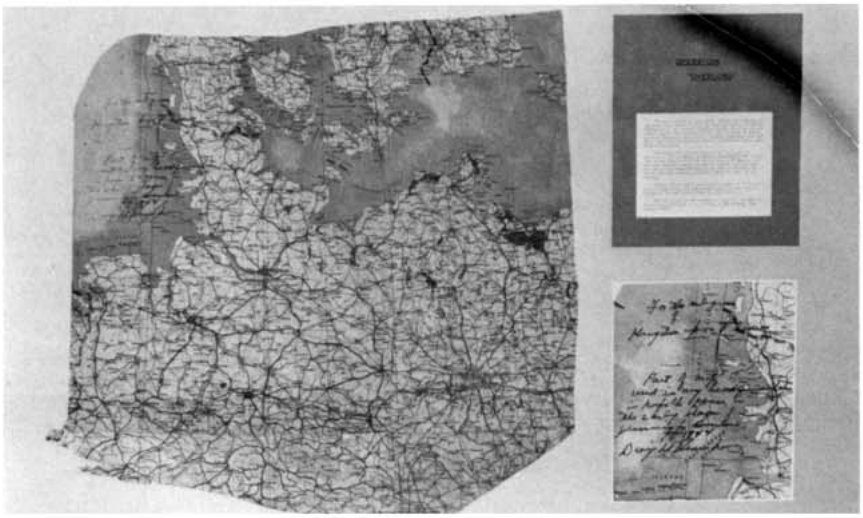
Several important conferences were held at Norfolk House soon after Eisenhower's arrival. The first, on January 21, attended by the Supreme Commander and his SHAEF staff, settled the problem of the strength of the invasion. Montgomery presented his revised plan to land five divisions on a wider invasion front, including the east side of the Cherbourg peninsula. Eisenhower accepted and approved the revision.

At the beginning of February, the US Publicity and Psychological Warfare Unit invited members of the press to photograph General Eisenhower and his commanders. The location of SHAEF headquarters was supposed to be a secret so, after being briefed, the 60 cameramen were ushered into three covered lorries and driven around the West End before arriving at Norfolk House. There, they were ushered into the conference room, which had been fitted out with studio lighting, to await the the arrival of the Allied leaders. The numerous pictures taken that day of Bradley, Ramsay, Tedder, Eisenhower, Montgomery, Leigh-Mallory and Smith introduced the Allied commanders to the public at what was described as the first meeting of the Supreme Command of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

On February 14, another conference took place at Norfolk House, attended by Admiral Charles Cooke, Jr (US Navy), and Major General John Hull (Operations Division of the US War Department), who had come from the USA to help settle the allocation of landing craft for a five-divisional 'Overlord' and a simultaneous two-divisional Operation 'Anvil' in the south of France. Together with Eisenhower, Smith, Ramsay, Leigh-Mallory and other experts, they examined the allocation figures in detail only to agree in the end that there were insufficient resources of craft available, particularly for 'Overlord'. The debate over landing ships continued well into March and was only concluded when Eisenhower secured a postponement of 'Anvil' to a later date.

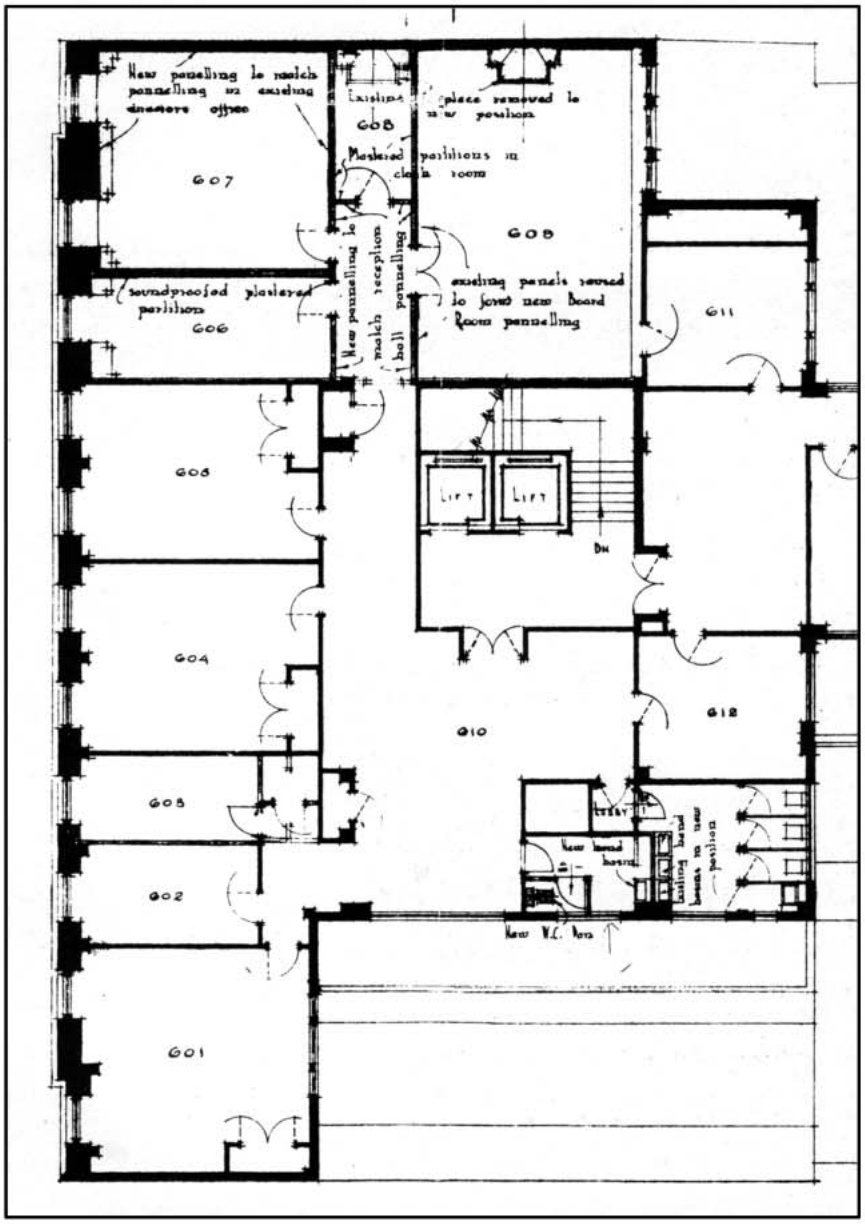
Meanwhile, another controversy surrounded the employment of the strategic bombing forces. The problem was that the commanders of both the British and American bomber forces, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris and Lieutenant General Carl A. Spaatz, did not really believe in 'Overlord'; they felt that their bombing campaign alone was sufficient to win the war. When he was in America during the first two weeks of January, Eisenhower had secured the agreement of Marshall and General Henry H. Arnold, the Air Chief-of-Staff, to having Spaatz and Harris placed under his command for a period prior to D-Day.

The 'Quadrant' conference had appointed Air Chief Marshal Leigh-Mallory to the command of the Allied Expeditionary Air Force which included the British Second



The map set up as a backdrop was a composite from the Europe 1:1,000,000 series, comprising sheets from GSGS 2758 and GSGS 4370. (The same map series is visible in the picture of Eisenhower's Grosvenor Square office reproduced on page 1.) *Above:* **This fragment, now in the Kingston Heritage Centre, is inscribed: 'For the citizens of Kingston upon Thames. Part of the map used in my headquarters in Norfolk House in the early stages of planning for Overlord, 1944. Dwight D. Eisenhower', although it is not from the map shown in the press pictures.**

Right: **The panelled boardroom was situated on the sixth (US seventh) floor, British Aluminium dividing the room in half during building alterations in 1951. After UK Provident took the lease over, they decided to reconstruct the interior of the whole building and in 1977, the project manager, Norman Wyeth, contacted the American Embassy, the Ministry of Defence and other organisations to see if there was any interest in preserving the panelling from the room. No one responded positively so the interior was stripped out by John Lelliott Ltd, now part of the Bovis Group.**



Tactical Air Force and the American Ninth Air Force. The SHAEF air component was solely tactical, for the support of the invasion and subsequent ground operations, and under the command of a fighter officer. Soon after his arrival in Britain, Eisenhower, together with Smith, approached Churchill, seeking an improved air organisation. Churchill thought this could be achieved in informal rather than formal terms since the Deputy Supreme Commander, Air Chief Marshal Tedder, was well placed to co-ordinate command relationships. However, the Eisenhower-Tedder team which had worked so well in the Mediterranean area did not have complete overall control in British conditions.

The command situation was not altogether satisfactory for the interests of SHAEF but Eisenhower worked closely with Tedder for several weeks after his arrival and on February 12 the SHAEF air plan was put forward. The strategic bomber force was to come under SHAEF control for a period before D-Day and was to carry out a sustained attack against the French railway system in order that German reinforcements would be prevented from reaching the beach-head when the invasion went in.

Soon after Eisenhower got the job as Supreme Commander, he sent Major General Robert W. Crawford, his logistics chief (G-4), to the UK to find a suitable headquarters for SHAEF in the London area where he could do his planning before going to an advanced HQ at Portsmouth.

During the reconstruction, the interior was totally gutted and the central core demolished *(below)*, **leaving none of the original, save the façade. (T. P. Bennett)**

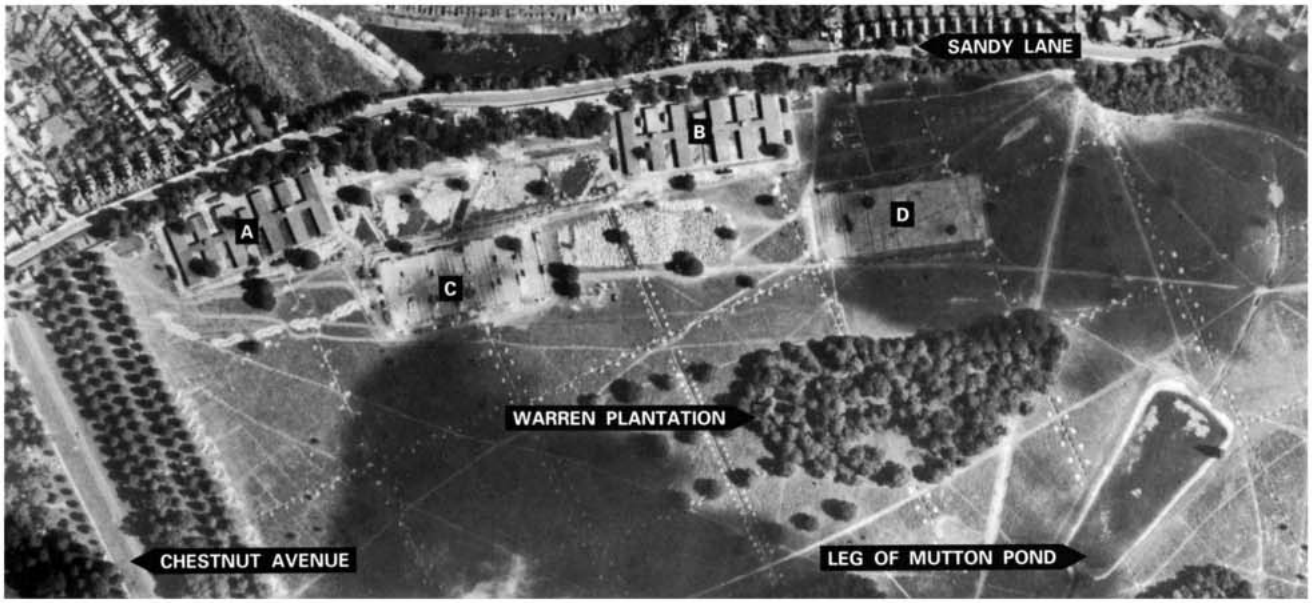
SHAEF MAIN HQ: 'WIDEWING'

When the United States entered the war, one of its earliest contributions to the conflict in Europe was the despatch to Britain of the Eighth Air Force. In June 1942, a site was selected for its headquarters, code-named 'Widewing', on the western outskirts of London in Bushy Park, situated just to the north of Hampton Court.

Bushy Park at Teddington in Middlesex is an ancient Royal Park immediately north of Hampton Court Palace on the River Thames, in the south-eastern suburbs of London and was originally formed by the union of three smaller parks. The Longford river, an old artificial waterway, winds through the park from the west towards the Thames. Nearby, in the north-western corner of the park, stands Upper Lodge, a building dating originally from the 17th century and associated particularly with the Earl of Halifax in the 18th century. After the First World War, the house and its surrounding buildings were known as the King's Canadian School and treated sick children from London's East End.

Running north from Hampton Court Palace across Bushy Park towards Teddington is Chestnut Avenue, created by Sir Christopher Wren. The road encircles the Diana Fountain near its southern end and is bordered on each side by several lines of trees. There is a gate at its northern end on to Sandy Lane, the main road along the north side of the park. Immediately to the east of the north end of Chestnut Avenue is the main area which served first as headquarters of the US Eighth Air Force and then partly as the main SHAEF headquarters.

In 1941, the Ministry of Works planned a number of large buildings here to accommodate the offices of companies seeking relief from the London Blitz. Known as Temporary Office Buildings (TOBs), four main buildings were to be erected, simply called Buildings 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'. Although plans were completed in September 1941 by a Ministry of Works architect, Mr L. H. Bucknell, and construction was begun by the building company Kent and Sussex Ltd, it was difficult to find enough labour under wartime conditions.



When this picture was taken on August 6, two single-storey office blocks ('A' and 'B') had been completed on the northern side of the park with work under way on Blocks 'C' and 'D'. The park itself had been protected against a possible airborne attack by digging a series of trenches across its surface, the piles of newly-turned earth appearing as white spots. (RAF)

'Widewing' — The USAAF Phase

The build-up of US forces in the UK in 1942 included the dispatch to Britain of the Eighth Air Force. It had been decided at the 'Arcadia' conference that the first Allied offensive against Germany should be the extension of strategic bombing from Britain. Brigadier General Ira C. Eaker was to set up an independent American bomber command, separate from the RAF, which would be the first establishment of the Eighth Air Force in Britain.

In February 1942, Eaker arrived with six other USAAF officers and they were at first attached to 'Southdown', Headquarters RAF Bomber Command, at Walter's Ash, near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Eaker himself lived for a time with the newly-appointed commander, Air Marshal Harris, in his house, Springfield. The Americans observed the British methods closely in the large underground operations room at Southdown and on April 15 set up the parallel VIII Bomber Command Headquarters at Wycombe Abbey, previously a girls' school. This, the first Eighth Air Force HQ, was known by the code-name 'Pinetree'.

For about five months in 1942 (February to June), Eaker acted as the receiver of forces from the USA, whilst General Spaatz was the dispatcher based in America under the Air Chief-of-Staff, General Arnold. Spaatz arrived in Britain in June 1942 to take command of the new Eighth Air Force, the headquarters of which were to be located at Bushy Park, to be known by the code-name 'Widewing'. When the site was inspected that June, only Building 'A' had been finished, although 'B' block was nearing completion. With the Air Ministry's assistance, the site was requisitioned on June 10, together with the King's Canadian School, for the use of the US Army Air Forces.

The first occupation of the two parts of the camp, the King's Canadian School, and the 'A' and 'B' block area (Site 1), was on June 17. Building 'A' became Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, while Building 'B', when completed, was to become Headquarters, VIII Air Force Service Command. Building 'A' covered an area of 420 feet by 180 feet. Harry Oliver of Georgia, a veteran of the Air Force Service Command, explains that 'the buildings were made of concrete blocks and were constructed on a concrete flooring. They were long buildings with a hallway down the middle, offices on each side and

The first joint Anglo-American church service was held just outside the eastern end of Block 'A' on October 11, 1942. (USA)

Although the camp buildings no longer stand, No. 88 remains as a common reference point on the far side of Sandy Lane. The vehicle provides the 'set dressing' to link past with present.

The King's Canadian School, on the western edge of the park, was requisitioned for use as quarters for enlisted men. In November 1942, schoolchildren were treated to a Thanksgiving Day Dinner held in the Enlisted Men's Mess. (USA)

The school buildings, now shown on plans as Upper Lodge, were retained by the government after the war and currently house an Admiralty research establishment although it is scheduled for closure in September 1994.

windows on the outside wall.' Meanwhile, immediate steps were taken to have the architect prepare plans for Building 'C', a new main entrance to the camp, and an internal road system within the park to connect the various buildings.

When General Spaatz arrived in Britain in June, he was taken to see General Eaker's 'Pinetree' headquarters before moving into 'Widewing'. His aide, Major 'Sy' Bartlett, sought out and found for him a residence known as Park House at 45 Inner Park Road, Wimbledon (just off the eastern side of the common, now within the borough of Wandsworth). His Chief-of-Staff, General Asa Duncan, the first commander of the Eighth Air Force, who would soon perish in an air crash, lived nearby at No. 33.

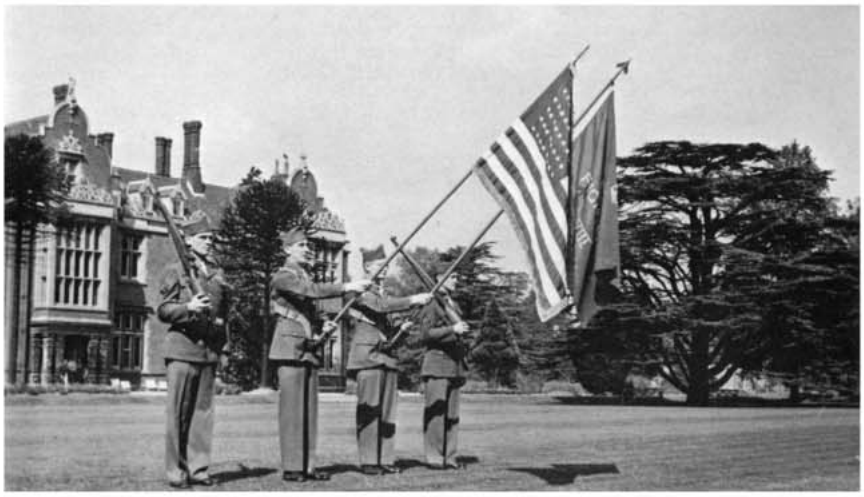
Also in the summer of 1942, the VIII Fighter Command Headquarters was set up at Bushey Hall, near Watford, Hertfordshire, under the command of General Frank O'D. Hunter, and given the code-name 'Ajax'. With such a similarity in name and with both housing an Eighth Air Force headquarters, it is not surprising that, both during and after the war, 'Bushy Park' and 'Bushey Hall' were often confused with one another.

On July 9, the first contingent of US troops arrived at 'Widewing'. On this date, Lieutenant Colonel H. B. Willis became first post commander, with an office in Building 'A'. He had an architectural as well as a military background, which helped in adapting the TOBs to USAAF use. Mr C. E. Bedford, a MoW architect, was engaged to plan Sites 3 and 4, one on each side of the north end of Chestnut Avenue, with accommodation for 750 men. The land was requisitioned on August 1, and opened on the 10th. Site 2, the Warren Plantation, was also requisitioned and was in use from September 1, although not completed until October 1.

The troops which had been using Building 'B' were now moved into tents and the building assigned as headquarters of the VIII Service Command. This command dealt with maintenance, supply and ancillary services and was then under the command of Major-General Walter Frank. The Service Command's personnel were to be accommodated in the King's Canadian School, where the existing facilities were improved by the addition of a new mess hall and ablutions for 1,000 men.

On August 13, Colonel N. Creighton succeeded Willis as post commander. Mr Bucknell was asked to design a fourth building, Block 'D', while the contracts for 'C' and 'D' were given to Pitchers Ltd of north London.

Both post commanders were able to make use of British Government agencies, the Air



The establishment of VIII Fighter Command at Bushey Hall *(above)*, **an associated headquarters (code-named 'Ajax') with a similar-sounding name, often miss-spelt even in the official records of the period, was bound to lead to confusion although it was situated near Watford, 20 miles north of Bushy Park ('Widewing'). Bushey Hall was an ideal location for the US Fighter HQ, as it was already occupied by the RAF whose own Fighter Command HQ was just five miles down the road in Bentley Priory at Stanmore. Because of the vital importance of close liaison between air and ground forces for the coming invasion, when appointed Allied Air C-in-C, Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory believed it was essential that the HQ of the Supreme Allied Commander should be located not far away from his air headquarters already in being at Stanmore with its good communications, tried and tested since the earliest days of the Battle of Britain. He proposed that one of the groups of government buildings just down the road in yet another Bushey — Bushey Heath — be chosen. (BMT)** *Below:* **Bushey Hall was demolished in 1955, this retaining wall to the rear lawn being all that remains.**

At Bushy Park, the fact that the Eighth HQ complex also housed the USAAF's school of camouflage meant that it was able to put its skills into practice right on its own doorstep. The two lakes in the centre of the park were camouflaged, as were Buildings 'C' and 'D' when they were completed. Even so, the overall attempt at deceiving the enemy was largely nullified by leaving uncovered Blocks 'A' and 'B' and all the other camp buildings. The existence of the airstrip for liaison types on the southern edge of the park would also have indicated to German photo-interpreters that this was a headquarters of some importance. Several aircraft are parked just in front of the tree-line in this picture taken by the RAF in August 1944.

Ministry and the Ministry of Works, to carry out their construction policy, assisted by Major C. Barrows, the post Utilities Officer. They also had the option of using the USAAF's own units and resources to undertake work.

On October 15, the first Nissen huts were completed and 900 men were able to move from tents to barracks before the winter weather set in. Colonel Creighton and his officers added a war room and a telephone wing to the 'A' block. He also made improvements to the plans for Building 'C' by upgrading the large mess and lounge for officers to an auditorium and Officers' Club with sports, locker and shower facilities.

Second Lieutenant Frank Rogers (who, as a lieutenant-colonel, was to command the base at Bushy Park after the war in 1958-59) arrived in London on September 22 and was assigned to the Adjutant General section of the Service Command in Building 'B.' He confirms that, at the time of his arrival, Building 'C' was already standing and that the Officers' Club was provided by the RAF. The building also contained medical and dental offices and some staff sections. Building 'D' was erected after his arrival.

All USAAF officers at 'Widewing' were billeted outside the camp with British families. Frank Rogers recalls the work of the Kinsman Club, an organisation of ladies who listed available accommodation and assisted the officers to find families to receive them. One of the club's founders was Mrs Louise Riley. (In 1959, Colonel Rogers was able to secure her a civilian award from the Air Force for her work during the war and after.)

Colonel Creighton was also responsible for the defence of the base and its security, it being very vulnerable to paratroop attack as well as aerial bombardment. A defence plan was drawn up and this became the responsibility of Major B. Edicott who had to co-operate with the local defence command and, if necessary, be prepared to evacuate the camp. The various ponds within the park which might have become useful to enemy air navigation — the Diana Fountain, the 'Leg of Mutton' Pond and the Heron Pond — were drained and covered with camouflage netting. Nevertheless, some water was allowed back to create an emergency water supply in the event of fire. Anti-aircraft guns were also deployed in the park and a strip laid out for the operation of small liaison aircraft.

A travelling school of camouflage, set up for the benefit of all sections of the Eighth Air Force, used 'Widewing' as its home base, as did the Eighth Air Force Platoon Survey Section which advised on the laying of airfields.

In October, VIII Air Force Service Command was involved in putting together the 'Eighth Air Force Junior Scheme'. Officers who were soon to serve with the Twelfth Air Force in North Africa, after the 'Torch' invasion, worked alongside fellow officers of the Eighth Air Force at 'Widewing' in order to learn Service Command procedures. The extra personnel for 'Junior' had to be found temporary accommodation in the camp which was achieved by erecting additional barrack huts around Buildings 'A' and 'B' and between their spurs.

In the aftermath of the 'Torch' landings in November, it was agreed that General Spaatz would follow the C-in-C, General Eisenhower, to Africa to become his Air Deputy. Spaatz left for Africa on December 1 and

Centre: **Individual aircraft were camouflaged, this one being photographed in December 1942 looking towards the gas works in Sandy Lane. (USA)** *Right:* **The gasometer in the background was being dismantled when Roger Bell took comparisons in March 1994.**

Although above-ground air raid shelters had been built at the ends of each block (the photographer who took the picture on page 11 is standing on the one outside Block 'A'), slit trenches were dug throughout the camp in 1944 for protection against the V-1, the spoil being used to build sandbag blast walls. *Left:* **This picture was taken by Allen Petersen, who founded the SHAEF Veterans' Association in 1985, looking towards the huts at the eastern end of Block 'D'.** *Above:* **The ground at this point is still uneven where the trench was filled in.**

was succeeded at 'Widewing' by General Eaker, who moved up from 'Pinetree' to assume temporary acting command of the Eighth Air Force. Eaker brought with him only four officers. General Charles C. Chauncey was appointed as Eaker's Chief-of-Staff.

By January 1943, the construction of the camp was still incomplete. For the week ending January 16, a Project Progress Report was issued giving details of the current state of the four principal buildings. The construction programme was proceeding for all four, even those already occupied. For 'A' and 'B' blocks, mention was made of a war room, a planning room, a tank room and a stand-by power room. Foundations had been made for blast walls for the war room and the brickwork up to floor level was being carried out. Concrete bases for plant for the planning room were awaiting the engineers; the tank room, supported by steel and concrete beams, had been started with rainwater drains three-quarters complete; and brick foundations for the stand-by power room were in progress. However, it is not completely clear from the report whether these measures were duplicated within each building. Excavations were made for soakaways to drain the main road (presumably between 'A' and 'B') and a flagpole had been put up on a lawned parade area fronting Sandy Lane. There was also work on other 'USAAF requirements'.

Good progress was reported for Building 'C' with five spurs ready for occupation. Black-out curtains, lino, and covers for the pipe duct in the central corridor were still required. The report noted that work was urgently needed on the 'revised section, the lecture hall, etc' (undoubtedly the improved plans for the Officers' Club made by Colonel Creighton) which was at the west end of the building. Electrical and heating work were largely complete for 'C' block and lavatories had been installed. Outside, the concrete road to the east end entrance had been finished, with work proceeding on the road to the central entrance.

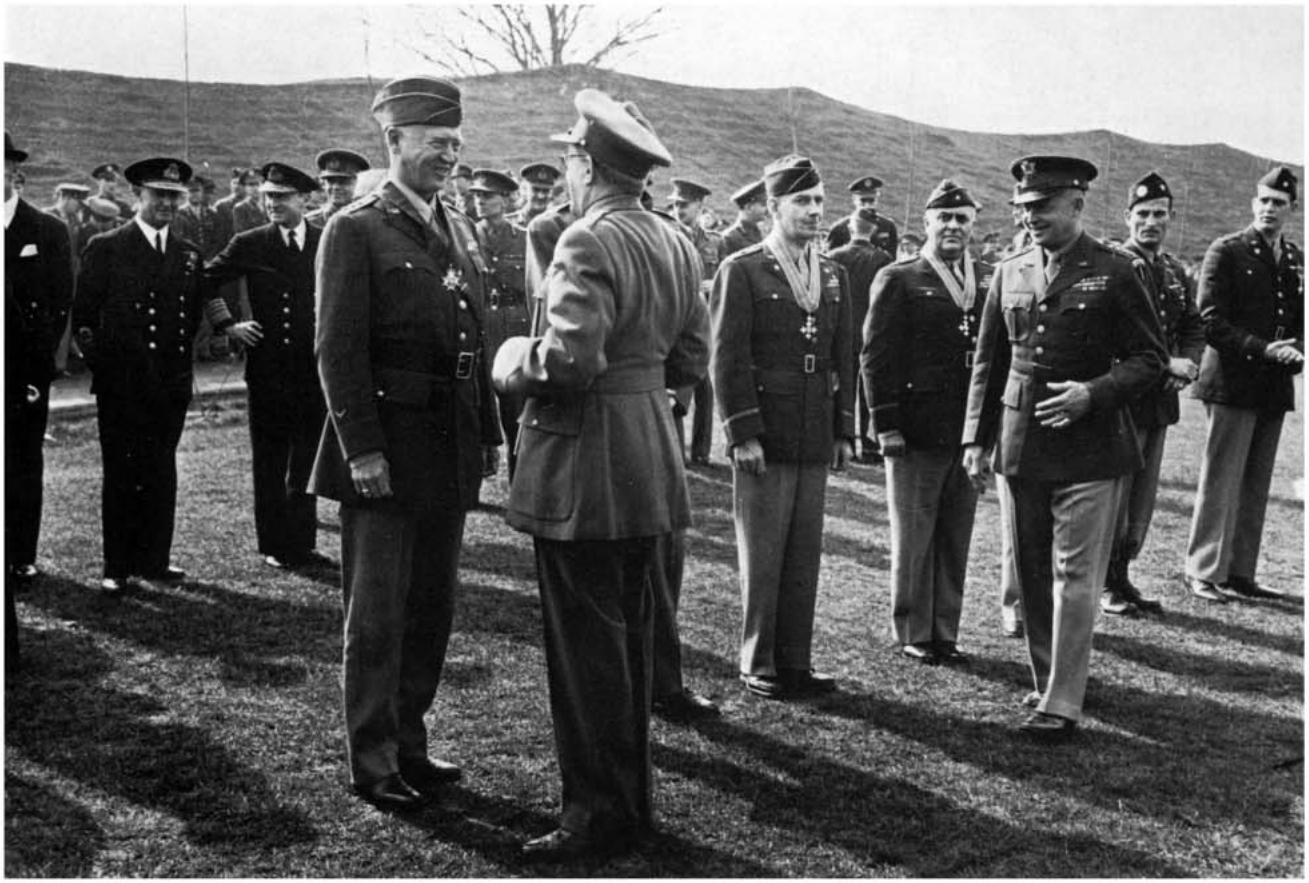
Better progress was reported for Building 'D' as labour had been switched from 'C' block. Two spurs, with heating, would soon be ready for use, and four more spurs were nearly complete, with three watertight. The roofs of three more spurs needed concreting, as did half the corridor.

As Block 'D' was the last of the four large buildings to be completed, outstanding work remained on bricklaying for partition walls and air raid shelters. A cafeteria end of the building was mentioned where plumbers were dealing with cold water services. Painters and glaziers were following up the completion of roofs. Most of the builders work was complete, but only a quarter of the electrical and heating work.

The construction programmes for Buildings 'A', 'B' and 'C' were fully completed on February 9, and that for 'D' by March 13. The revised Officers' Club was ready for use on July 10.

On February 22 (Washington's birthday), 1943, USAAF Station 586, or Camp Griffiss, was officially dedicated and the whole site transferred to USAAF jurisdiction. The US flag 'Old Glory' was raised in the presence of Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher L. Courtney, representing the RAF, and Generals Ira C. Eaker and Henry F. Miller, representing the USAAF.

On February 15, 1942, Lieutenant Colonel Townsend Griffiss was en route for Hurn airport, near Bournemouth, after making a top secret visit to the Soviet Union, when his BOAC Liberator G-AGDR (AM918) was shot down near the Eddystone lighthouse. The entire civilian crew — Captain R. H. Page, Captain J. A. S. Hunter, First Officer R. Williams, Radio Operator H. Parker and Flight Engineer H. Spicer — perished along with Brigadier Frederick Morris, Lieutenant C. O. M. Vine and a Mr Bell. Colonel Griffiss was the first American airman to lose his life in the line of duty in Europe during the Second World War — his loss being all the more tragic as the Liberator was said to have been shot down by a Spitfire. In remembrance, USAAF Station 586 at Bushy Park was named after him when dedicated a year after his death. In the picture *above* **Major General William E. Kepner, commander of VIII Fighter Command, Lieutenant General Carl Spaatz, Commanding General of the Strategic Air Force, and Major General 'Barney' M. Giles, Chief-of-Staff, are pictured in the ops room at Camp Griffiss in January 1944. Just over a month later, SHAEF arrived. (USA)**



On January 16, 1944, Norfolk House became the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force. Nevertheless, Eisenhower's antipathy towards the free living enjoyed by staff officers in the West End during his previous command in London in 1942 ensured that this would be remedied for 'Overlord'. However, when General Smith, Eisenhower's Chief-of-Staff, arrived in London to look into the possibilities of moving to an out-of-town location, his opposite number, General Morgan, was incapacitated in hospital. In his absence, Leigh-Mallory's strong views that his and Eisenhower's headquarters must be close together — even within walking distance — were not passed on, and instead Smith was shown the Eighth Air Force HQ at Bushy Park, part of which was about to be relocated to the disbanded VIII Bomber Command complex at High Wycombe. Smith considered that 'Widewing' would be ideal for their purpose and, by the time the full significance had sunk in, it was too late to make a change. Leigh-Mallory was furious and made an official complaint to Eisenhower in his post-'Overlord' despatch. Even Smith was forced to concede his mistake: 'My God! I've married the wrong woman!', he exclaimed. Less than three months later, it was all smiles in front of the camouflaged Block 'C' at SHAEF's new main headquarters. On March 27, Field-Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, decorates seven American officers for distinguished service in North Africa. Lieutenant General George S. Patton, recently in Eisenhower's bad books for slapping a soldier in Sicily, receives the Order of the Bath. Ike looks pleased. (EL)

'Widewing' — The SHAEF Phase

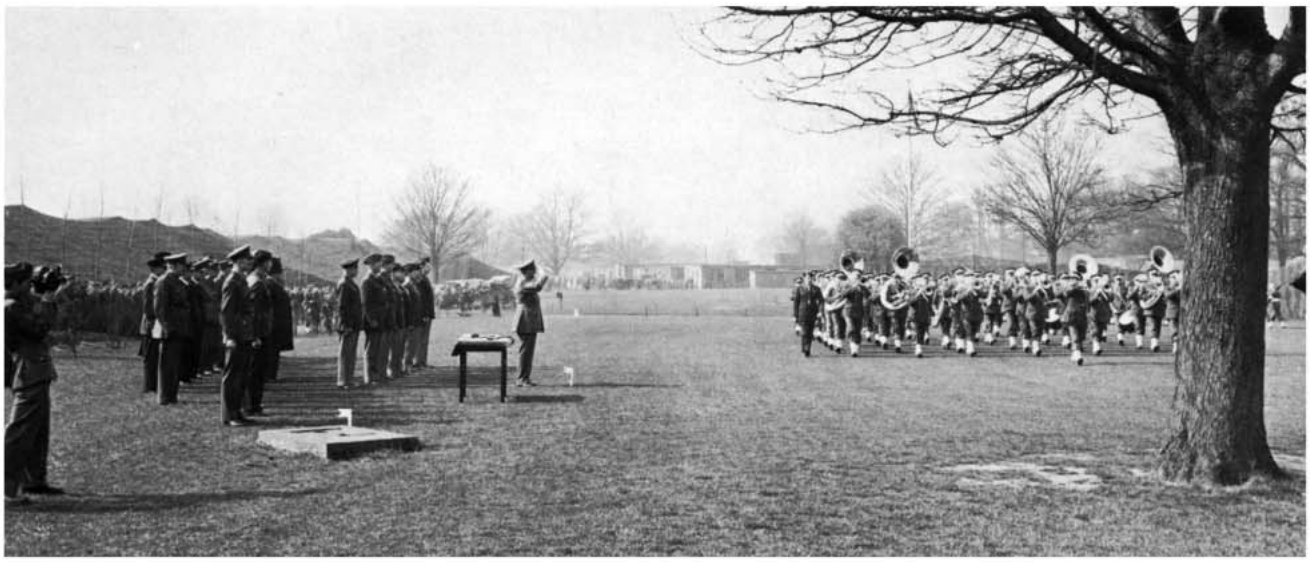
At the end of 1943, the Bushy Park base was reorganised, Eighth Air Force HQ being relocated at Wycombe Abbey, while USSAFE (United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe, soon rechristened USSTAF — US Strategic Air Force) was set up at 'Widewing' under General Spaatz, who now controlled the Fifteenth Air Force in Italy as well as the Eighth in Britain from February 4, 1944.

On October 16, the Ninth Air Force was re-formed for the invasion of Europe and Major General Lewis H. Brereton moved to Sunninghill Park, Ascot, as commanding general, and on November 1 the Fifteenth Air Force was activated in Italy. Meanwhile, General Eaker had been sent to command the Mediterranean Air Force in Italy.

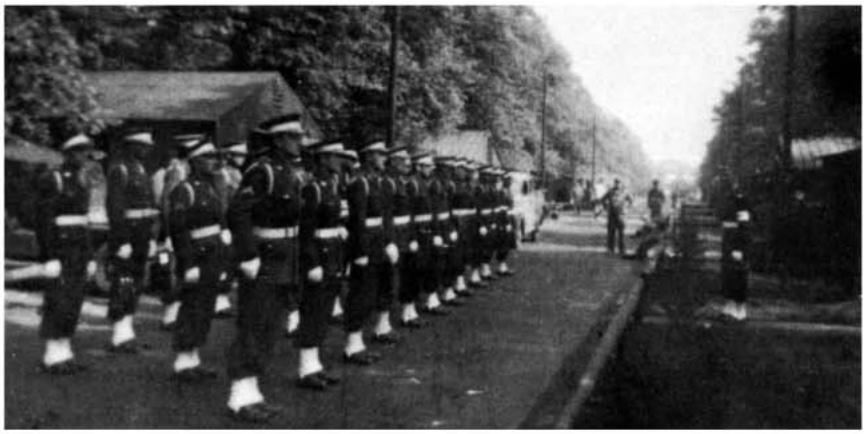
Prior to his return from Africa, Eisenhower had sent General Smith, his Chief-of-Staff, ahead to England in December to investigate what arrangements had been made for his new headquarters, and to check on office space and living accommodation. By the time the Supreme Commander reached London on January 15, General Smith was ready with his report. General Eisenhower immediately supported the plan of installing SHAEF at 'Widewing'; he felt not only that the intermingling of officers in the joint messes would help to accelerate the welding of an allied command, but it would also help to keep staff officers away from the distractions of London's clubland. In this respect, the move out of town was highly unpopular with those already ensconced in the West End but, as recorded by his naval aide, Commander Harry Butcher, 'Ike says he is moving if he has to become established in "Widewing" alone.'

SHAEF moved into 'Widewing' at the beginning of March, about one month later than planned, taking over Blocks 'C', 'D', 'E' and part of 'F'.

Exactly 50 years later, on Sunday. March 27, 1994, we re-staged the award ceremony on the exact spot, the line of poplars planted in 1944 at the end of each wing having now grown to maturity.

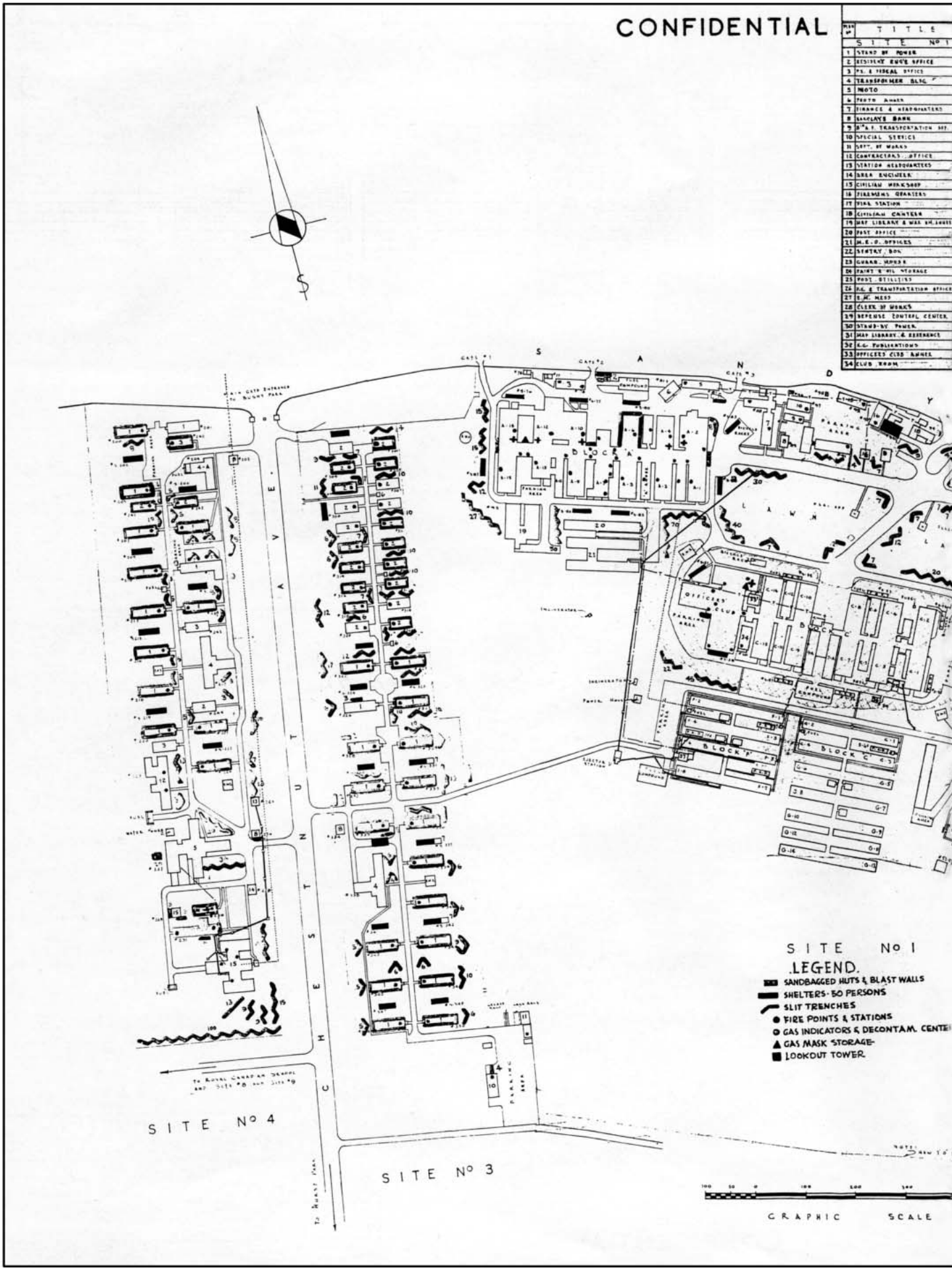


Field-Marshal Brooke salutes while Eisenhower takes a back seat with Patton. Both Blocks 'C' and 'D' were already camouflaged when SHAEF moved out from London on Sunday, March 5. In the background stands Block 'A' of General Spaatz's Strategic Air Force — not as closely associated with 'Overlord' as the Ninth Air Force, specially created for the tactical support of the invasion, yet whose HQ was 15 miles to the west in Sunninghill Park (see *UK Airfields of the Ninth Then and Now*). (USA)



Above: **Military Police colour guard parading in front of its quarters beneath the avenue of trees beside Chestnut Avenue.** *Right:* **The air view, although taken after the war in April 1947, gives a better illustration of the layout of 'Widewing' as the trees are not yet in leaf and the camouflage netting no longer hides the office blocks. Compare this with the wartime plan of the camp on pages 18-19. The crater beside the avenue is believed to have been caused by the V-1 which narrowly missed 'C' Block on Saturday, July 1, although, as we shall see, by that time SHAEF Forward had moved to Portsmouth. (RAF)**

Enlisted men and NCOs of the Air Force, who had been quartered in wooden barracks under the trees of the Warren Plantation site, — namely the 988th Military Police Company (Aviation) — gave up this accommodation to SHAEF servicemen and were moved to similar barracks standing on both sides of the north end of Chestnut Avenue.


CONFIDENTIAL
SITE Nº 1
1 STAND BY POWER
2 RESIDENT ENG'S OFFICE
3 P.X. & FEDRAL OFFICE
4 TRANSFORMER BLDG
5 MOTO
6 POST ARMY
7 FINANCE & HEADQUARTERS
8 BARCLAY'S BANK
9 B.O.A.T. TRANSPORTATION OFF.
10 SPECIAL SERVICE
11 DEPT. OF WORKS
12 CONTRACTORS OFFICE
13 STATION HEADQUARTERS
14 AREA ENGINEER
15 CIVILIAN WORKSHOP
16 FIREMENS QUARTERS
17 FIRE STATION
18 CIVILIAN CANTEEN
19 MAP LIBRARY & WAR INFORMATION
20 POST OFFICE
21 M.E.D. OFFICES
22 SENTRY BOX
23 GUARD HOUSE
24 PAINT & OIL STORAGE
25 POST UTILITIES
26 R.C. & TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
27 R.M.C. MESS
28 CLERK OF WORKS
29 REFUSE CONTROL CENTER
30 STAND-BY POWER
31 MAP LIBRARY & REFERENCE
32 R.C. PUBLICATIONS
33 OFFICERS CLUB ANNEX
34 CLUB ROOM
SANDAGE AVENUE
WEST CHURCH STREET
OFFICERS CLUB
BLOCK A
BLOCK B
BLOCK C
LAWN
SITE Nº 4
SITE Nº 3
SITE NO 1
LEGEND.
SANDBAGGED HUTS & BLAST WALLS
SHELTERS-50 PERSONS
SLIT TRENCHES
FIRE POINTS & STATIONS
GAS INDICATORS & DECONTAM. CENTE
GAS MASK STORAGE
LOOKOUT TOWER
GRAPHIC SCALE

G E N E R A L N O T E S

PE	SIZE	REFERENCE Nº	REMARKS

C-L-A-S-S-I-F-I-E-D S-E-C-T-I-O-N

PART II

I - SUPREME COMMANDER, AEF, DEPUTY AND PERSONAL STAFFS

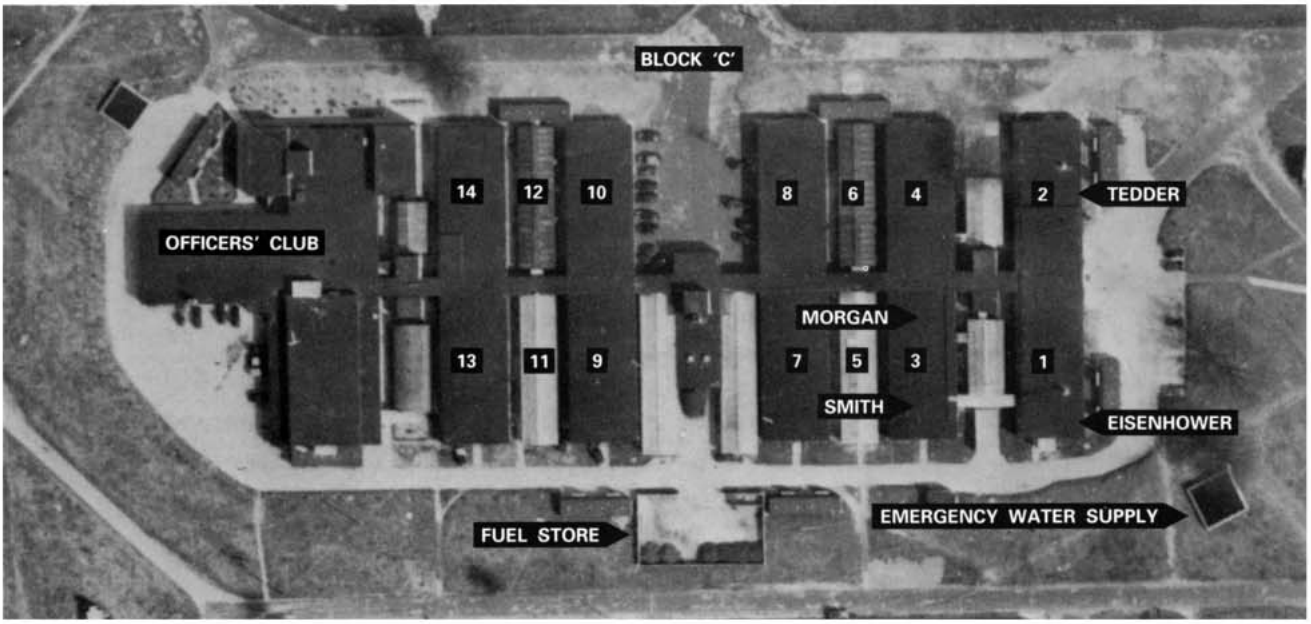
Appointment	Name	Block & Wing	Ext
SUPREME COMMANDER, AEF	Gen DWIGHT D EISENHOWER	C-1	
ADC	Lt Col Ernest R. Lee	C-1	14
Naval Aid	Comdr HARRY C. BUTCHER	C-1	20
Military Asst	Lt Col James P. Gault	C-1	15
Personal Secretary	Capt Mattie A Pinette	C-1	18
DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER AEF	Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR TEDDER	C-2	2
Personal Staff Officer	W/Cmdr L G SCARMAN	C-2	2
PA to Sir Tedder	S/Ldr J A R King	C-2	25
Asst Personal Staff Officer	F/Lt G A G Christie	C-2	2
Secretary	S-O J Leake	C-2	23

II - CHIEF OF STAFF SHAEF, D/C of S and PERSONAL STAFFS

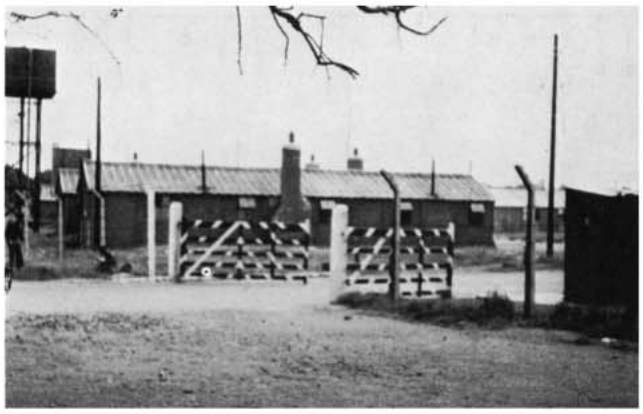
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF			
Chief of Staff	Lt Gen WALTER B SMITH	C-3	4
Steno for Chief of Staff	Capt Ruth Briggs	C-3	4
A D C to Chief of Staff	Capt J J Robinson	C-3	29
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF			
DC/S	Lt Gen F E MORGAN	C-3	6
M A to DC/S	Lt Col R A Harris	C-3	8
P A to DC/S	Jr Cmdr. E A Robertson	C-3	6
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER			
DC/S and C A O	Lt Gen Sir HUMFREY M GALE	C-7	35
M A to DC/S and C A O	Maj Lord Remnant	C-7	36
D A Q M G	Maj A Bell	C-7	36
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, GENERAL STAFF			
Secretariat Proper			
Secretary, Gen. Staff	Col. DAN GILMER	C-3	13
Duty Officer		C-3	13
Asst Secretary	Maj R E Baker	C-3	31
Asst Secretary	Maj C L Burgess	C-3	29
Asst Secretary	Maj Mc Laren	C-3	30
Asst Secretary	Maj J B Moore III	C-4	34
Asst Secretary	Lt Cmdr J E Reid	C-4	32
Conference Room Appointments	Capt E J Geldermann	C-4	37

22.

From one central command building — Norfolk House — which had served the planning stage of 'Overlord' so well, accommodating unified staffs from the naval, air and land forces, now, for the more important operational phase, each was separated. This led to the splitting and duplication of staffs as representatives of the various commands now had to maintain a presence at Bushy Park as well as Norfolk House. The situation was further complicated when General Montgomery, characteristically, selected his old school at Hammersmith for his HQ, necessitating a further dispersal of the combined and joint planners and an increase in travelling time for all. No pictures appear to exist of the interior of block 'C', but this uncredited photo, reproduced in *Past Forgetting*, may well be an informal snapshot taken there by Kay Summersby. *Right:* This page is reproduced from the March 1, 1944 edition of the SHAEF telephone directory. Although not stated, one assumes that Eisenhower's extension was No. 1. (EL)



SHAEF's tenure at Bushy Park was short — barely six months — for no sooner had Eisenhower moved in than plans were being made to set up both an Advance(d) and Forward HQ at Portsmouth before the Main HQ moved to France in September. By February 1945, the only American occupants were the US Group for the Control Commission for the occupation of Germany. However, in 1948, the US Air Force returned when 'Widewing' became the headquarters of the Third Air Division. For seven months during the Berlin Airlift, the USAF shared the base with RAF Transport Command which had moved in when US forces left in 1945. This enlargement of the main SHAEF Block 'C' is from the picture taken by the RAF on April 14, 1947. Note the covered passageway between the offices of Eisenhower and Smith: this was damaged by blast from the V1 which exploded at 'Widewing' on July 1. Final closure of the base, then comprising a beautifully-appointed American boarding school with extensive sports facilities and a 400-seat theatre, came in 1962 against much opposition from the local authorities who wished to preserve the amenities for the benefit of the local population. Matters came to a climax in September with hundreds protesting at the imminent demolition of the school, its theatre and hospital. A protest march on the 30th (a Sunday) was simply met by a deafening silence from the Minster of Public Buildings and Works. During the winter, the facilities began to decay from lack of use, and vandals added to the deterioration, hastening the inevitable end. The open days held on Armed Forces Day by the USAF during the 1950s made a feature of the 'Eisenhower Room' in C1 wing, yet it is only when such historic places have gone from our sight that people really come to realise what has been lost. In March 1994 — 50 years after SHAEF moved in — moves were made to redress the balance.



Tony Malloy, project manager for the 50th anniversary event to be held in the park on May 30, 1994, seized on two ideas for commemorating the occasion. When the base was demolished, all the entrances which had been cut through the high brick wall which borders Sandy Lane were sealed up; all save the one to Site 12 *(left)* at the junction with Park Road (see page 13), although even that was rebuilt out of all recognition *(right)*. Therefore, Tony's plan was to cut a new 'SHAEF Gate' through the wall at the point of the old main entrance. Planning permission is awaited at the time of going to press.

At Bushy Park there were now two organisations — USSTAF and SHAEF — which taken together meant an increase in the total number of personnel present on the base and, consequently, more temporary buildings and tents. The USAAF retained possession of Buildings 'A' and 'B', with the HQ and operations under Anderson in 'A' and the Air Technical Service Command in Europe (ATSCE) commanded by Major General Hugh J. Knerr in 'B'. Meanwhile, Buildings 'C' and 'D' were occupied by SHAEF, General Eisenhower and the heads of the G departments — G-1, G-2, G-3, etc., having offices in Building 'C'. The general officers' dining room in 'C' block was reserved for major generals and above, and was fitted out by Bentalls of Kingston.

Commander Butcher described the scene which greeted the SHAEF personnel: 'The place looks like an ordinary Army post — Nissen huts, low PX and mess buildings, tents for the British and American troops — but with the difference that two seeming mounds or low hills are actually two long, one-story buildings, covered with huge nets of dingy camouflage, intended to blend with the brownish ground when seen from the air. Our offices are in one of these buildings, "C" Building, and down the corridor are Beetle [Smith] and the Secretary of the general and the various Gs.'

A memorial (see *After the Battle* No. 37) erected on the front lawn outside 'C' block in 1945 had been unveiled by General Eaker on August 20 but this only recorded the use of 'Widewing' by the USAAF. Tony's feeling was that the occupation of the base by SHAEF had been overlooked and his second idea was to re-concrete the exact site of Eisenhower's office and mark it with an appropriate plaque. On March 4, 1994 — exactly 50 years from when SHAEF moved in — and armed with the plan and aerial photographs reproduced here, we set out to excavate the office area in the hope of uncovering some trace of the brickwork. Unfortunately TOBs — temporary office buildings of the wartime period — were built quickly on foundations probably no more than six inches deep, all of which would have been cleared away by the demolition contractors although Tony did find a piece of broken china, and a lid from a teapot! Instead, it was decided to mark the spot by measurement from fixed points like the two trees which stood at this end of the block. Don Wilson of the Madrigal Design Unit plotted the exact corner of Eisenhower's office and prepared a detailed drawing for the placing of a 3-metre-square commemorative base for unveiling on May 30, 1994.

TELEGRAPH COTTAGE

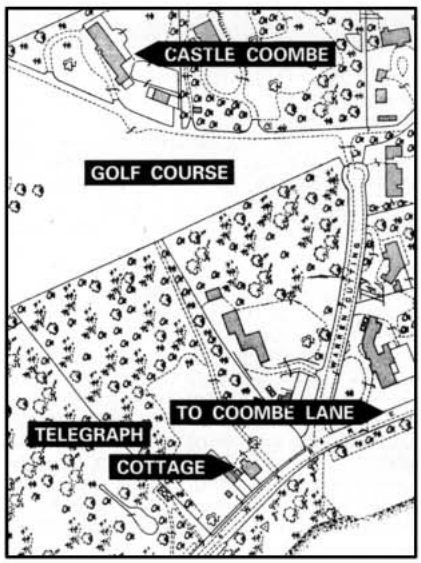
Just off Warren Road, Coombe, on Kingston Hill, on the edge of what had been for decades a densely-wooded area stood Telegraph Cottage. The name originated from its association with a former Admiralty semaphore signalling station. In Edwardian times, a golf course had been carved out of the woods behind the cottage to the east and the property then acquired several acres of woodland garden.

By the early 1930s, just across the golf links from the back gate of the garden, there stood a mansion in its own grounds known as Castle Coombe. During the war, both Telegraph Cottage and Castle Coombe became residences for top Allied commanders.

Between August and November 1942, General Eisenhower enjoyed the quietness of Telegraph Cottage, initially as a secluded weekend country retreat away from the pressures of his office at Grosvenor Square and the accommodation at the Dorchester Hotel. He brought Robert Murphy, the American diplomat, there for discussions about Algerian politics and General Mark Clark, deputy commander of 'Torch', after his secret submarine landing on the North African coast.

After Eisenhower had left for North Africa, General Eaker, the new commander of the Eighth Air Force, chose Castle Coombe as a residence and lived there throughout 1943. When Eaker first came to 'Widewing', he stayed for a time in Spaatz's residence, Park House, off Wimbledon Common, as it was only in the new year of 1943 that Castle Coombe became ready for occupation. Captain James Parton, the general's aide, had found it with the assistance of the RAF's housing agency. Eaker wanted somewhere large enough to be used as a mess, where other officers could be quartered and important visitors entertained. All arrangements were made to ensure that the centrally-heated house was made as comfortable as possible.

Before we leave the London area, we ought to digress for a moment to include the Supreme Commander's private quarters. Hays Lodge on Chesterfield Hill, just a stone's throw from Grosvenor Square, was rented in January 1944 for those occasions when he would have to stay overnight in town. Although constantly surrounded by people, the job of a man at the top is lonely, made all the more stressful by the worst worry of all — the unknown. Eisenhower's responsibilities as 'Overlord' supremo can hardly be compared to those of any other commander at any other time. Even Hitler conceded that he would never have even given one German total control over all three armed services. Kay Summersby was an important part of Eisenhower's life, far more important, your Editor believes, than historians have previously given credit. We can be thankful that she was there to offer love and support, and one cannot fail to feel for them both when they came together at Hays Lodge in January 1944.



Lieutenant Commander Butcher, 'Widewing', March 22, 1944: 'I am frequently surprised at Ike's inability to recognise his own transition from a relatively unknown staff officer in the United States Army to that of Supreme Commander. It is difficult for him to realise his new position in the world. He likes the friendly attention paid to him, particularly by those who may be considered in his personal entourage, or who have some official duty which normally brings them close to him. For instance, he gets a lift and a smile every time we ride past the one-armed civilian guard at the pole gate across Coombe Lane leading into Kingston Road, the salute always accompanied by a generous smile. The same gateman was there when we first took Telegraph Cottage in 1942. When we returned again to reside in the cottage, the gateman obviously was delighted to see the General.' Unfortunately, Butcher got his geography wrong: the gate *(above)* is across *Warren Road* leading into Coombe Lane which *then* meets the Kingston Road. From here, Bushy Park was a ten-minute drive.

Butcher, August 26, 1942: 'Looked for a house for a "hide-out" to escape the four forbidding walls of the Dorchester, as directed by Ike. Will still live here, but need a place to retreat. Went out to see the house this afternoon with Lieutenant Colonel Bussey, British billeting officer, and Captain A. E. Stewart of our headquarters. It is called Telegraph Cottage. Small, unpretentious, remotely situated on a ten-acre wooded tract, with a lawn at the back and rose garden. Between Coombe Hill and Little Coombe golf courses. House rents for about $32 a week. The owner will keep up the garden, including vegetables, and all we have to supply are bed linen, food, and two coloured boys to cook and keep house. Mickey [McKeogh] will be in charge. Has five small bedrooms — a bit more than we need — but only one bath. Fireplace for heat. I decided to take it and told Ike later that he is in a position of being able to say, whenever anything goes wrong at the house, "your judgment was lousy".' In actual fact, Commander Butcher's judgement was a little suspect as it was only later that he discovered that Richmond Park, just to the north, was a decoy target designed to divert German bombers attacking London!

After the decision had been taken to move SHAEF to 'Widewing', Colonel Gault, Eisenhower's British aide, decided that Castle Coombe would be a suitable residence for the Supreme Commander, after General Eaker's departure. However, Eisenhower discovered that Tedder, who had recently remarried after the death of his first wife, had arranged to occupy Telegraph Cottage with his new wife, Marie. Ike and Tedder then agreed to exchange the properties. So Ike returned to Telegraph Cottage and Tedder went to Castle Coombe. Hays Lodge, Eisenhower's London residence, was kept open for when he needed to be in town. (Eventually, it was relinquished after a minor furnishing disagreement.)

Kay Summersby: 'Ike tried to sketch Telegraph Cottage, but was never satisfied with the results. One evening he had his sketch pad on his knee and was busy drawing. I looked over his shoulder and discovered that he was drawing floor plans, not a picture. "What do you think?" he asked, holding out the pad. "It struck me that if I owned this place, I'd want to make a few changes." He had designed a little wing with a new kitchen and a little maid's room and bath. We had a lot of fun talking about the changes we'd like to make . . . When I think about the long talks we used to have at Telegraph Cottage, I am overwhelmed with nostalgia. Not that we were ever really alone. There was never once that the two of us had the house to ourselves — but we had privacy. We began to feel quite relaxed, sitting quietly in front of the fire, or on our favourite secluded bench hidden in the shrubbery, hand in hand, my head on his shoulder — talking our hearts out. Just enjoying being together. I suspect that over the years — long before Ike and I ever set foot in Telegraph Cottage — many couples had sat in front of its fire and whispered confidences to each other. There was something about the atmosphere of that little house that bred intimacy and trust. It was easy to talk about all the things that one had never spoken of before. Of secret fears. Of past mistakes. Of withering sorrows.'

Telegraph Cottage was not a secret, the picture at the top of the page being taken by the US Signal Corps on August 12, 1944 and released by the SHAEF censor the following day with the cryptic caption: 'A rear view of the house where history was made. This is "telegraph house" the scene of the Allied generals' planning.' In actual fact it shows the side of the house facing south. When Eisenhower returned to the States in 1945, he was told in no uncertain terms by General Marshall that if he pursued the relationship with Kay, it would mean the end of his career. Thus, the wartime dreams of purchasing the cottage after the war were shattered. He did return years later on what was undoubtedly a visit full of memories. The picture of him with Mrs Gabrielle Keiller, the owner, says it all. Sadly, today, Telegraph Cottage is no more. It burned down in 1987, the site being redeveloped with four magnificent mansions set amidst the pine trees of the thinned-out wood. Mr Nabil Naaman of The Cedars kindly allowed your Editor to roam through the beautifully-landscaped gardens . . . and there we found the same path . . . the same secluded corner . . . the same oak tree . . . possibly even the same bench.

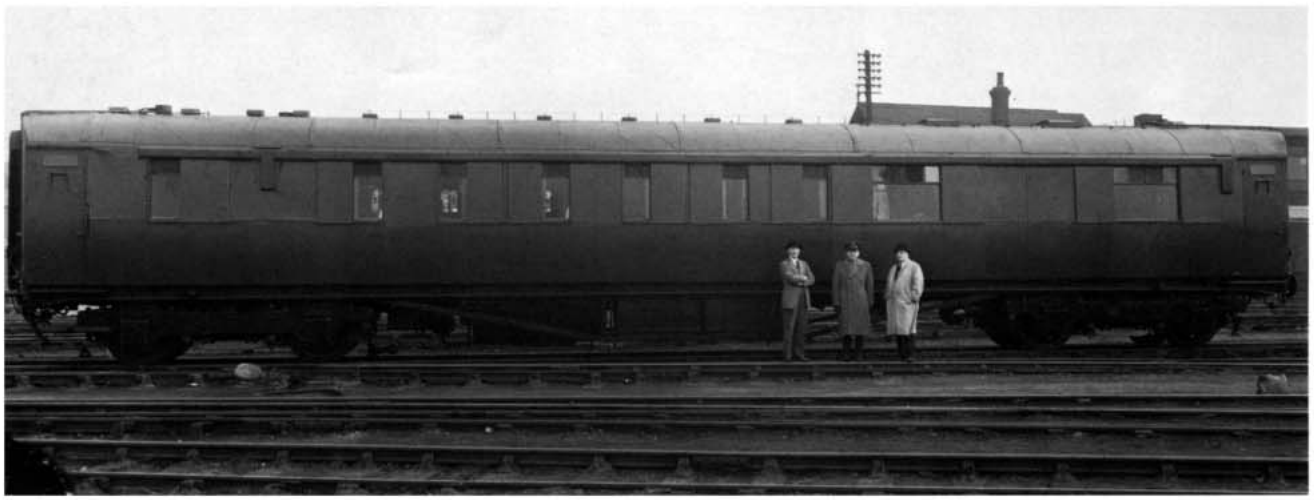
SHAEF HQ TRAIN *BAYONET*

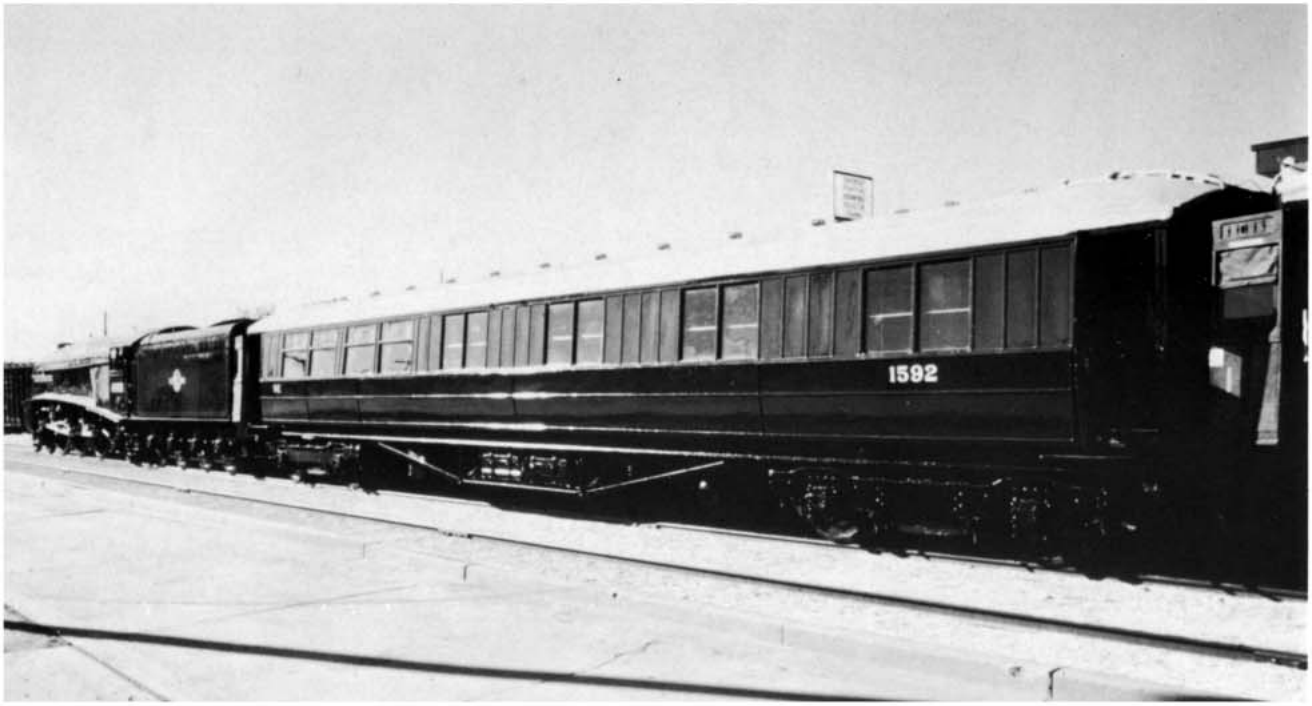
In 1942, a train — or rather two specially-converted coaches, as the carriages would be pulled by whatever engine was most convenient — was provided for Eisenhower's use. He called it *Bayonet*. When Eisenhower returned to Britain in January 1944, Colonel Gault had obtained the use of *Bayonet* again and pre-positioned the train at Ayr station in Scotland for the fog-bound journey to London. Eisenhower reached Prestwick at midnight on January 14, the journey to London, via Carlisle and Birmingham, ending in the sidings at Primrose Hill station nearly 24 hours later.

The carriages had originally been built as first-class sleepers in 1936 by the London & North Eastern Railway — invariably abbreviated to LNER — and converted for Eisenhower. Coach 1592 was fitted out as an office by removing sleepers Nos. 1-4, and installing telephone and radio communications, with a bedroom adjacent to sleeper No. 5. Armour-plating was added together with the fitting of armoured window shutters and a water tank in the roof space. Coach 1591, which was also armour-plated, became a sleeper for Eisenhower's staff.

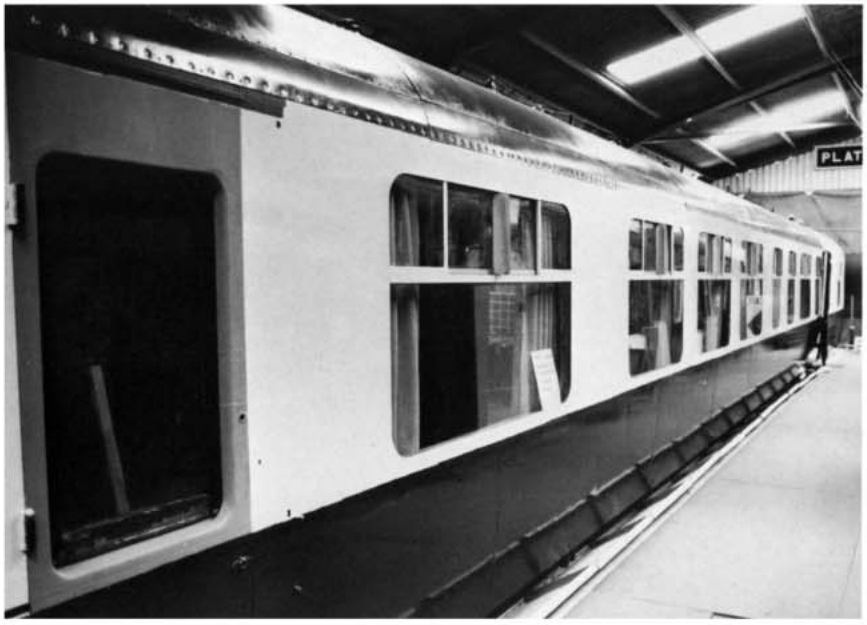
Top: **LNER Coach 1592, built in 1936, was converted and protected with armour plate as Eisenhower's personal office carriage. It was damaged by a bomb in January 1945.** *Below:* **Carriage 1591, seen here on March 12, 1945, with the armoured window shutters clearly visible. (NRM)**

Before we go to Portsmouth, mention must be made of General Eisenhower's command train *Bayonet*. Although the London-Portsmouth journey was invariably done by road (Leonard Dry, Ike's long-distance driver, telling us that their MP outriders would often do a dry run the day before to check the route), trains were by far the better method of travel when covering long distances, especially if weather conditions were poor. Commander Butcher describes how they used *Bayonet* for the journey from Scotland to London on their return from the United States on January 14, fog having made flying impossible. Ike used *Bayonet* for inspection trips, typically on April 13 to air force bases in eastern England. Here he is seen alighting at Newmarket station. (IWM)





The armour-plating was removed after the war, and when the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin, acquired the two coaches in 1967, the interior of 1592 had already started to be dismantled. An expensive restoration followed, both carriages being completely repainted for the centenary of Eisenhower's birth. In October 1990, the two carriages, pulled by renamed A4 Pacific ***Dwight D. Eisenhower*** at a sedate 25 mph, left the museum for a special 'Ike' rail day at Eisenhower's home-town station in Abilene, Kansas, organised by the Eisenhower Centennial Commission. One special visitor was ex-Sergeant Mickey McKeogh who sadly died in March 1993. *Right:* In Britain, the Great Western Railway Society at Didcot, Oxfordshire, display a GWR coach, No. 9002, built in 1940 as a special saloon with first-class restaurant, as possibly being part of Eisenhower's wartime train although unfortunately, no real proof is forthcoming. It is currently undergoing restoration and is the twin of another carriage, 9001, at the Birmingham Railway Museum reputed to have been used by Churchill.



With Eisenhower based in the West End of London, a convenient station had to be found for *Bayonet* as the Supreme Commander could hardly catch his train at one of the main line stations. Addison Road station was ideal; it was only a short drive from Grosvenor Square and less than a quarter of a mile from Montgomery's 21st Army Group headquarters at St Paul's School. It also had the advantage of having been closed to the public since October 1940. *Left:* However, you will not find Addison Road station on any railway maps today for it was reopened in December 1946 . . . as Olympia! (LTM)

Supreme Headquarters
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Office of the Supreme Commander

12 July, 1945

The Board Room of the British Aluminium Co., Ltd., in Norfolk House, will always occupy a place in British and American history.

It was here that the attack on North Africa and the Continent of Europe was planned.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

General of the Army
U.S.Army

With D-Day the greatest news story of the war, virtually every one of the 500-odd newsmen accredited by SHAEF applied for the top assignment: attachment to General Eisenhower's headquarters at Portsmouth. With so many correspondents competing for what could only be a limited number of places, four reporters, two American and two British, were chosen by drawing lots. Here, Eisenhower holds a press conference at his Advanced CP with the lucky winners: Front L-R: Major W. R. Carr of SHAEF; Stanley Birch representing the British news agency Reuters; Robert Barr for the BBC; Merrill 'Red' Mueller of NBC; Edward 'Ned' Roberts of United Press, and Lieutenant Colonel Thor Smith, the SHAEF public relations officer for the Advanced Command Post. Behind stand Captain Victor J. Meluskey, the SHAEF press censor, and Commander Butcher. The reporters have just presented Eisenhower with an old Royal Horse Artillery print to hang on the bare wall of his office tent. (SC)

SHAEF ADVANCED CP: SHARPENER CAMP AND SOUTHWICK HOUSE

Inland from the 'island' city of Portsmouth, with its wide sea inlets on each side, is the long narrow hill, lying east-west and overlooking the city, known as Portsdown. Along its crest stands a line of large Victorian forts, built by Lord Palmerston in the 1860s as part of the port's defences. One of these buildings, Fort Southwick, was taken over by the Royal Navy's Portsmouth Command in the Second World War and was used as the chief communications centre for Operation 'Overlord'. In a valley on the other side of Portsdown from the city, and immediately north of Fort Southwick, stands Southwick House, a former aristocratic mansion, requisitioned by HMS *Dryad*, the Navy school of navigation, and later chosen to become Admiral Ramsay's headquarters for the cross-Channel operation. The surrounding land, Southwick Park and the house's former estate, was well wooded and so provided good cover from the air for troop encampments.

On March 3, 1944, Major-General Harold L. Bull of SHAEF's G-3 division wrote to the Chief-of-Staff, General Smith, setting out the possibilities as to where the Supreme Commander might set up an Advance Command Post in the area. He recommended that, excluding Fort Southwick, rooms might be reserved for him at (1) Southwick House, (2) the Dower House in Southwick Park (which became General Montgomery's CP) and that (3) the small town of Wickham on the nearest railway line might be a suitable location for a mobile CP aboard a train. Commander Butcher in his diary entry for March 18 records the visit of Colonel Quentin Brown, the SHAEF Headquarters Commandant, to enquire whether Eisenhower favoured the train option or whether he would prefer a tented camp. The general chose the camp as the least troublesome

The inner wall of Eisenhower's tent, some 15 feet square, had been lined with deal, stained to look like pine panelling. His 'office' consisted of a desk which took up half the space, two chairs, a radio cabinet and small table. A single telephone and small wall map completed the fixtures and fittings. The floor was concreted and covered with rugs, the base extending outside to form a small terrace where he liked to sit and entertain his guests. (IWM)

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SMITH:

3 June 1944

The MP Detachment has been provided with the following list of officers to be admitted, upon proper identification, into General Eisenhower's area:

Air Chief Marshal	TEDDER	Air Vice Marshal	ROBB
General	MONTGOMERY	Air Vice Marshal	WIGGLESWORTH
Admiral	RAMSAY	Lieut. General	PATTON
Air Chief Marshal	LEIGH-MALLORY	Lieut. General	BRADLEY
Lieut. General	SMITH	Lieut. General	HODGES
Lieut. General	MORGAN	Major General	L. C. ALLEN
Lieut. General	GALE	Major General	GAFFEY
Rear Admiral	CREASY	Major General	BULL
Major General	DeGUINGAND	Major General	STRONG

Access to the Advance CP was severely limited, Major R. E. Baker, General Staff Assistant Secretary, drawing up the initial list on June 3 for approval by the Chief-of-Staff.

solution and by April 27 it had been set up, General Bull offering accommodation there to any SHAEF officer on business in the area. By May 19, Bull was able to report to General Morgan that the troops now guarding the CP would go with it when it moved to the Continent.

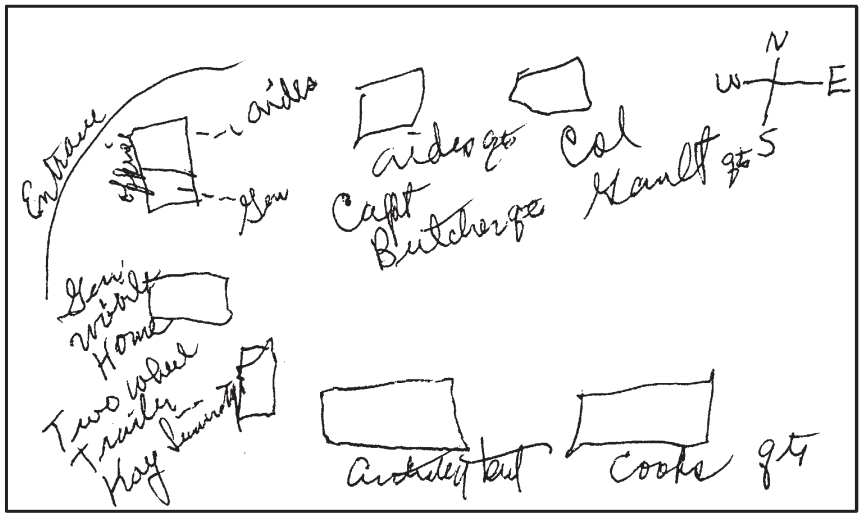
The Advance Command Post was only a small unit of SHAEF, described by Bull in an early letter as 'for SCAEF [Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force] and his group of seven or eight accompanying officers'. It was originally intended that, with necessary enlargements, the CP should accompany 21st Army Group to the Continent and be re-absorbed in SHAEF main headquarters when the latter moved abroad, with the establishment of an American army group, at approximately D+90. The functions of the advanced CP were seen as (1) keeping close contact with 21st Army Group, (2) maintaining an up-to-date war room in which to hold commander's conferences and (3) receiving distinguished visitors. Later, the idea was developed of detaching a forward echelon, about 500 strong, from main headquarters at 'Widewing' to be located close to the Supreme Commander. However, for the D-Day period between June 2 and 12, General Eisenhower operated only from his small Advance Command Post. He did of course have Southwick House nearby for the use of command conferences.

Commander Butcher describes the Advanced Command Post as being situated close to Southwick House and comprising a circle of tents and caravans (trailers) which included 'Ike's circus wagon', i.e. his sleeping caravan; the 'nickel-plated office caravan', which was wired for sound and had a secretary's desk in one corner; caravans with large maps and teletype machines; Eisenhower's personal office tent; tents to accommodate the personal staff; and Group Captain J. M. Stagg's weather tent. A switchboard had been fitted in the office caravan to provide telephone contact with Marshall in Washington, with 10 Downing Street and with Southwick House. From July 22 onwards, until Eisenhower moved permanently to the Continent on August 7, Butcher refers to the Southwick Advance Command Post as 'the "Sharpener" Camp', probably to distinguish it clearly from SHAEF Forward Headquarters, code-named 'Shipmate', which had been set up close by on July 1.

At a commander's conference held at Southwick House on June 4 at 4.30 a.m., the decision was taken to postpone D-Day for 24 hours because of bad weather. Many of the top Allied commanders — Montgomery, Ramsay, Tedder, Leigh-Mallory — were there, seated on easy chairs in the old library of Southwick House. In the nearby plotting room, the huge map of the Channel crossing lanes covered one entire wall. At 9.45 p.m. that evening, because Group Captain Stagg, the meteorologist, had discovered a favourable break in the weather pattern, Eisenhower decided to proceed with the invasion on June 6, subject to final confirmation at 4.30 a.m. on the morning of June 5. At the final meeting, after once again canvassing everyone's opinion, the Supreme Commander gave the simple, yet now-legendary, order for the invasion to begin.

Eisenhower's task of establishing and maintaining contact with the overall ground commander, General Montgomery, and with the American First Army leader, Lieutenant General Omar N. Bradley, would soon begin. On June 8, he crossed to the beaches in a fast minelayer, HMS *Apollo*, with Admiral Ramsay and received reports in person from the two commanders as they came aboard in turn. It was arranged that Montgomery would send a situation report every evening. During the first days of the invasion, Eisenhower remained at his 'Sharpener' command

By July when this picture was taken, the list must have grown as this is Lord Halifax, British Ambassador in Washington, being interviewed by the correspondents. Privately, Eisenhower, General Smith and the Ambassador had been discussing how to deal with the German General Staff after the war. Ike was in favour of liquidating all 3,500 of them as well as leaders of the Nazi Party and all members of the Gestapo. There was general agreement that extermination could be left to nature if the Russians were given a free hand, and justice would be done if areas of Germany were assigned to those nations overrun by Hitler. Personal feelings that were no doubt not for publication! The picture was taken in what Butcher describes as the 'nickel-plated office caravan'. (SC)

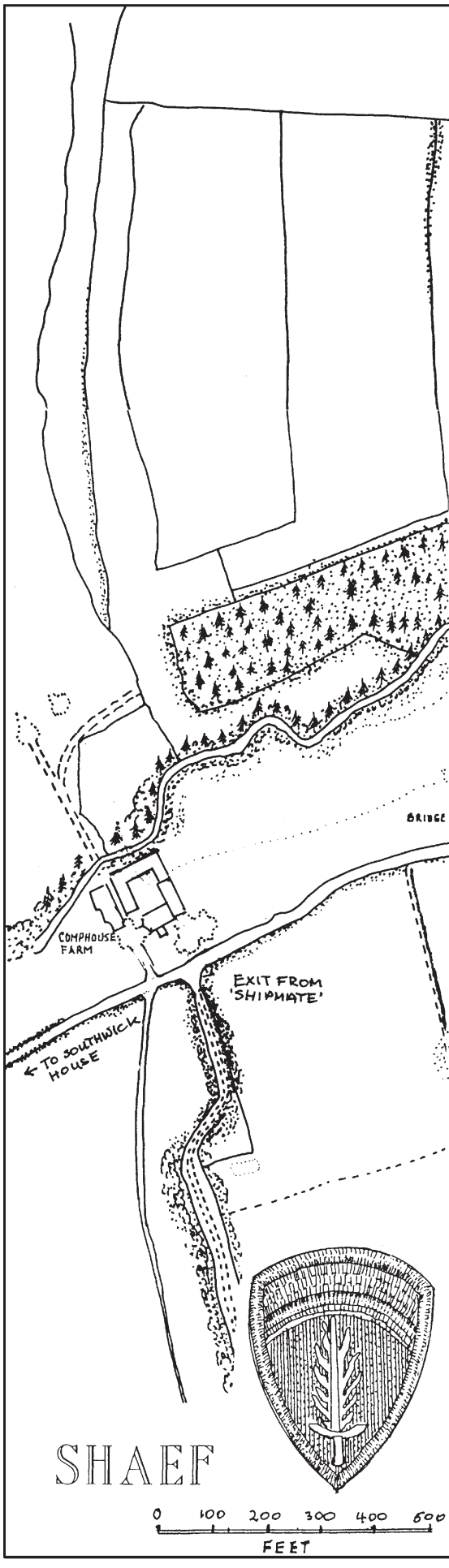


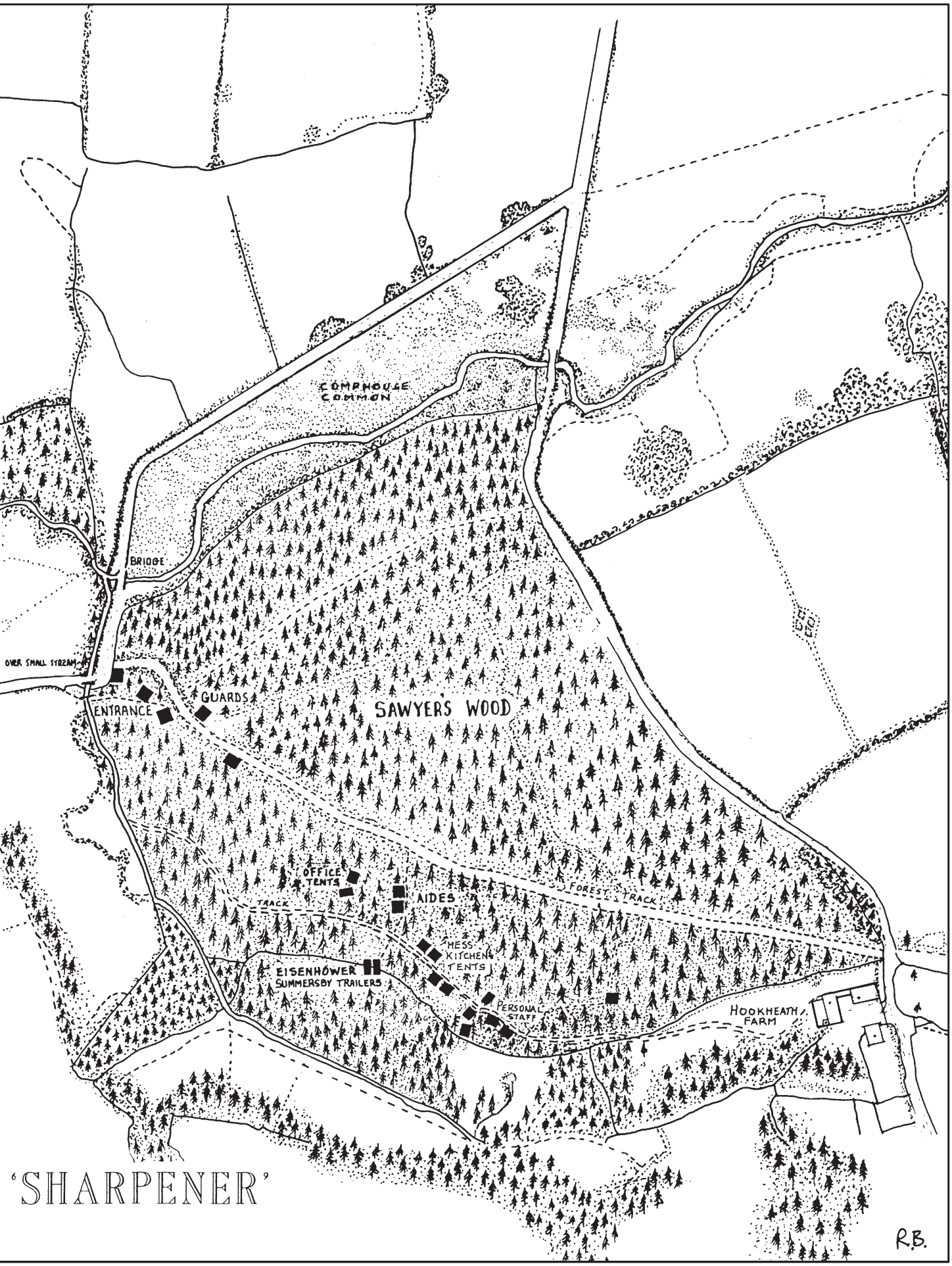
Our search for the location of the Advance Command Post began many years ago and we very soon discovered that no one knew the right answer. HMS *Dryad* thought it could have been at one of two places within the grounds of Admiral Ramsay's headquarters although most published accounts simply describe it as being 'in the woods near Southwick House'. One local history places it near the drive to New Barns Farm, a possibility we quickly discarded after discussion with the owner. With the approach of the 50th anniversary, we redoubled our efforts but, even after we checked hundreds of SHAEF records (some of which are reproduced on the front cover), none of the documents quoted a precise location or grid reference. We contacted Mickey McKeogh (then still alive) and Leonard Dry, the only known living persons from Eisenhower's coterie at 'Sharpener' and, although Leonard drew the sketch *above*, he could not remember exactly where it was situated. We rechecked every known fact: 'in a wooded enclave', 'a mile from the house', 'not far from SHAEF Forward'. As we had already found and checked out the location of the latter HQ, code-named 'Shipmate', we minutely rechecked a series of aerial photographs taken on April 21, 1944, covering the whole area. Finally, at 11.00 p.m. one Saturday night, we struck gold: there in the middle of Sawyer's Wood stood a group of tents and trailers.

post watching the battle of Normandy unfold. The British and Canadian beachheads, Gold, Juno and Sword, were joined and the airborne bridgehead across the River Orne to the east secured, although a fierce battle developed north of Caen. With airborne assistance, the American beachheads, Omaha and Utah, were linked on June 12 when Carentan was captured. The furthest southern penetration, to Caumont, was made by GIs from Omaha beach.

On June 12, Eisenhower crossed the Channel again and landed on French soil for the first time, taking with him the (American) Joint Chiefs-of-Staff, General Marshall, Admiral King and General Arnold, for a visit to Bradley's headquarters. For the rest of June, the Supreme Commander based himself largely at 'Widewing' whilst using the Advanced Command Post from time to time. In Normandy, the Americans would soon cut the Cotentin peninsula and then advance north to assault and take Cherbourg. The British would remain locked in a long drawn-out struggle for Caen and would try on June 26 to encircle the city in the south-west.

Having scaled up the aerial photograph, we hot-footed it back to Portsmouth on Monday morning. *Left:* When we reached the forest, the first tell-tale evidence of its use became apparent: barbed wire and picket posts still in place by the gate. *Right:* Carefully measuring the distance from the gate, up the track through the wood, at 800 feet we halted but, of all the bad luck, the trees on the 'enclave' where the tents were visible on the photograph had all been felled and the area replanted.




COMPHOUSE COMMON
BRIDGE
OVER SMALL STREAM
ENTRANCE
GUARDS
SAWYERS WOOD
OFFICE TENTS
AIDES
TRACK
FOREST TRACK
MESS KITCHEN TENTS
EISENHOWER SUMMERSBY TRAILERS
PERSONAL STAFF
HOOKHEATH FARM
R.B.

'SHARPENER'

After getting over our initial disappointment, we began a square-search of the area. Quite soon, Roger Bell, our long-standing ETO adviser, found cinders: Butcher describes 'the inevitable cinders of these crunching paths grinding into my slippers' as he dashed to answer the first telephone call of the day early on June 6. They are also very evident in this picture taken on June 4 when Général Charles de Gaulle came to see Eisenhower with Churchill to be told about D-Day. According to Butcher, Ike walked outside in the rain up a cinder pathway to give de Gaulle 'the elbow room to wave his arms'! (EL)

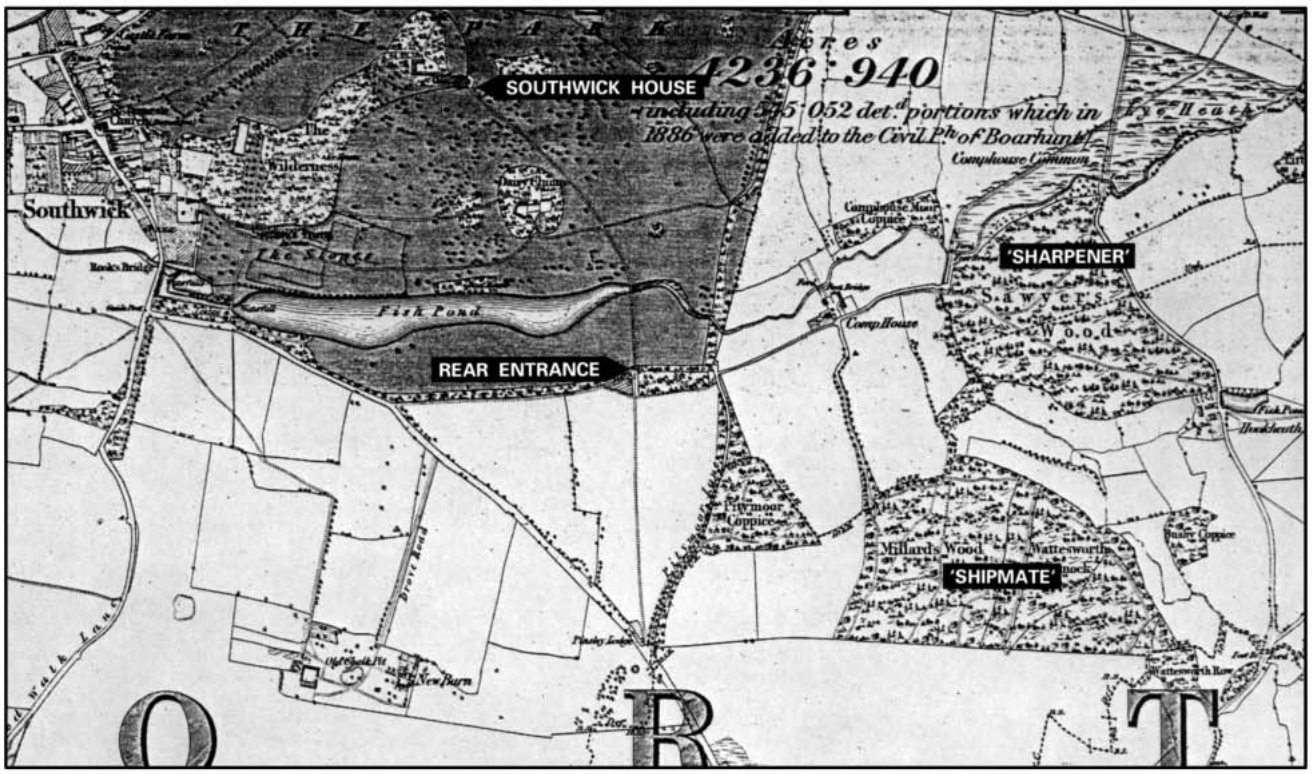
Below left: **As the floor of Eisenhower's tent had been cemented, we knew that pieces of concrete were going to be the main clue that we had found the correct spot.** *Below right:* **However, never did we think that we might find the actual paving stone which lay outside Butcher's (?) tent underneath the doormat — one can see it clearly in the picture on page 28. On our return, we put all the evidence together and, working with the Dry sketch and aerial photograph (not reproduced here, although it will appear in *D-Day Then and Now*), Roger drew up the plan reproduced on pages 30-31.**

As Southwick House was the HQ of the Allied Naval Commander, Admiral Bertram Ramsay, it does not really qualify for inclusion in this account (although it will, of course, be featured in *D-Day Then and Now*, as will the tactical, forward and main headquarters of 21st Army Group). Nevertheless, it would be remiss of us not to mention it in view of its historical importance. *Left:* This is the former dining room, now the wardroom bar, of HMS *Dryad*, where the crucial meteorological conferences took place. The door on the right leads via the ante-room to the plotting room with its preserved wall map.

Left: On June 6, Admiral Ramsay escorts the Supreme Commander across the forecourt *(right)* to where his Cadillac is waiting . . .

. . . with his personal chauffeuse ready to drive straight through the park to the south-eastern entrance *(right)*. (IWM)

Left: Kay would have emerged and turned left along the track on which Roger Bell is walking, to meet the road by the trees in the distance on the right. *Right:* The entrance to 'Sharpener' then lay just a few hundred yards down the road.



SHAEF FORWARD HQ: 'SHIPMATE'

Eisenhower was evidently seeking to use the resources of SHAEF to better effect in the future. In a letter of June 23 to SHAEF heads of divisions and other units, General Bull wrote: 'The Supreme Commander has directed that an operating echelon of SHAEF, designated "Forward Headquarters", be established in the vicinity of Portsmouth.' After the new headquarters had been set up on July 1, Bull offered full guidance in another letter on July 20: 'Forward Headquarters is to include the essential staff officers and other ranks required by the Supreme Commander to implement his decisions without delay. This group . . . should be as small as possible, consistent with the inclusion of the functional organisations necessary to accomplish this mission. Rear Headquarters should include only those portions of the various divisions which, through necessity, must remain in the vicinity of London more or less permanently. Main Headquarters should include probably the major portion of the staff which, because of their missions, need not be either forward or rear. Herein should be centred those functions of the various divisions which can be fulfilled at a slower tempo. It is contemplated that as signal communications permit and as suitable accommodations can be provided Main Headquarters will move forward as efficient operation may demand, either to the location of Forward Headquarters or to some other location along the axis of communication but less advanced.'

Butcher refers to the setting up of SHAEF Forward Headquarters, near Portsmouth on July 1 ('Shipmate'), as 'a camp not far from the spot where we have had our Advance Command Post'. It occupied a large wood once known as Millard's Wood lying about a mile south-east of Southwick House. Bull's letter of June 23 says that the camp would consist of no more than 200 officers and 300 enlisted men/other ranks. A detailed allotment of personnel from each division was attached. The largest numbers were for G-2, G-3 and G-4 divisions: G-2 (Intelligence) was allotted 38 officers and 45 men; G-3 (Operations) 30 officers and 40 men; G-4 (Supply) also 38 officers and 45 men. Signals Division had 16 officers and 20 men but the remaining

STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL

OUTGOING MESSAGE

PRIORITY

TO : ADMIRALTY; TROOPERS; AGWAR AND FOR NAVY DEPT; AIR MINISTRY; ANXF; AEAF; EXFOR; AFHQ; ETOUSA; FUSAG; THIRD US ARMY; SHAEF CP; HQ AB TPS; COMNAVEU, CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE; DEFENSE WAR ROOM

FROM : SHAEF, SIGNED EISENHOWER

REF NO : S 54719 CITE: SHOCT

Cancel my S-54645 and substitute:

Operational echelon designated SHAEF Forward Headquarters will open in the vicinity of PORTSMOUTH 012400B July. Initially all communications will continue to be addressed to SHAEF and will be routed to SHAEF Main Headquarters. Separate instruction will be transmitted where necessary to addressees concerning communications which should be addressed and routed to SHAEF Forward Headquarters. Telephone switchboard code name SHAEF Forward Headquarters is SHIPMATE.

S-54645 is SMC OUT 1189, 27/6/44, G-3

ORIGINATOR : G-3 AUTHENTICATION: A.S. NEVINS, BRIG. GENERAL

INFORMATION : SGS, G-2, G-5, SIGNALS, MEDICAL, FWD, MR PEAKE, CSSTAF, ADC, ANCXF(SHAEF), SMC, AG RECORDS; G-1, G-4, AG, ENGR, PRD, AMB PHILLIPS, EACS, AEAF (SHAEF), SPECIAL FORCE HQ, HQ COMD, **

COORD WITH: CHIEF OF STAFF

SECRET

SMC OUT 1251 28 June 44 2220B MM/ppm Ref No: S 54719

24 1025 TOP SECRET SECRET

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

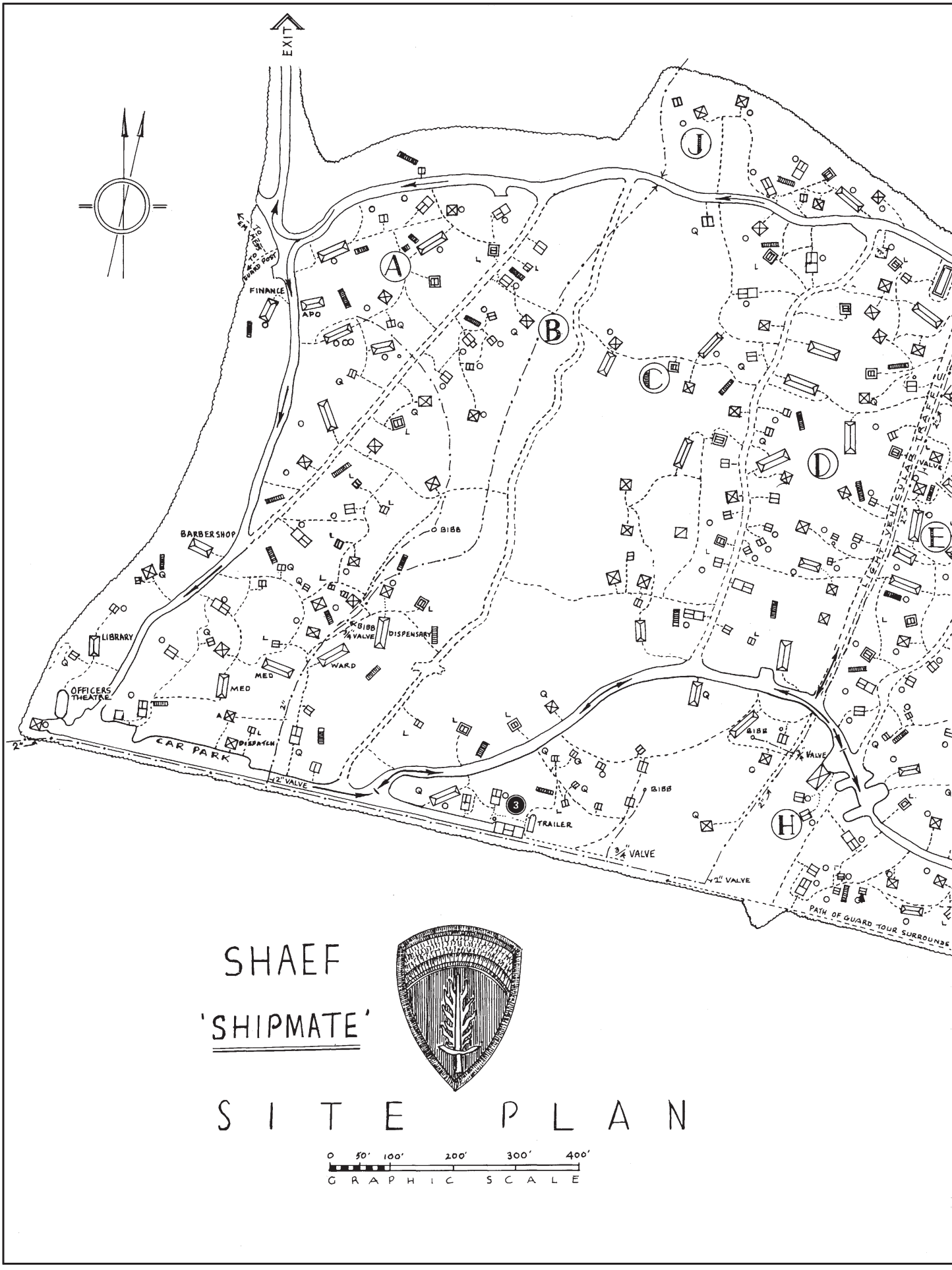
Indexed

SS-SHAEF File No. 370.2/4

18 divisions all had less. Special Order No. 124, dated June 30, lists 138 American enlisted personnel (including 22 WACs) who were 'attached to Advance Detachment Number 2 for quarters and rations' and posted to the headquarters. Butcher explains on July 4 that the loss of officers and personnel from SHAEF Main was noticeable. The Chief-of-Staff, General Smith, had gone forward although his deputy, General Morgan, remained at 'Widewing'. Similarly, he says, all divisions had the chief or the deputy divided between the two headquarters.

It is easy to become confused over the location of the various SHAEF headquarters for, by July, there were several in existence at the same time. There was the 'Advance' in Sawyer's Wood; 'Forward' in Millard's Wood; and 'Main' back in Bushy Park with 'Rear' in Norfolk House. 'Advance' later merged with 'Forward' after the latter moved to France. Even Major General Bull, the SHAEF G-3, had difficulty in trying to explain the difference in a memo sent out on July 6 as he had to expand on it two weeks later in a further circular. SHAEF Forward headquarters at Portsmouth was a tented camp, as Commander Butcher explained, 'not far from where we had our Advance Command Post'. Even so, it took hours of searching by David Hale in Washington before he discovered a detailed plan with each tent numbered, although unfortunately there was no key to go with it. We were thrilled to find that the original steel girders forming the camp entrance, although torched off level with the new gate, still had cable and barbed wire attached.

On June 29, a message was sent by the Quartermaster of Anti-Aircraft Command objecting to a proposal by SHAEF to take over the access road to the heavy anti-aircraft battery (P21) located at the south-western corner of the wood, to give a more direct access from the Forward HQ site to Southwick and Eisenhower's own CP in Sawyer's Wood. AA Command pointed out that the proposed road would cut through the compound and would also be too close to the guns for safety. This picture, taken by the US 7th Photo Group, shows the area as it appeared on April 21.



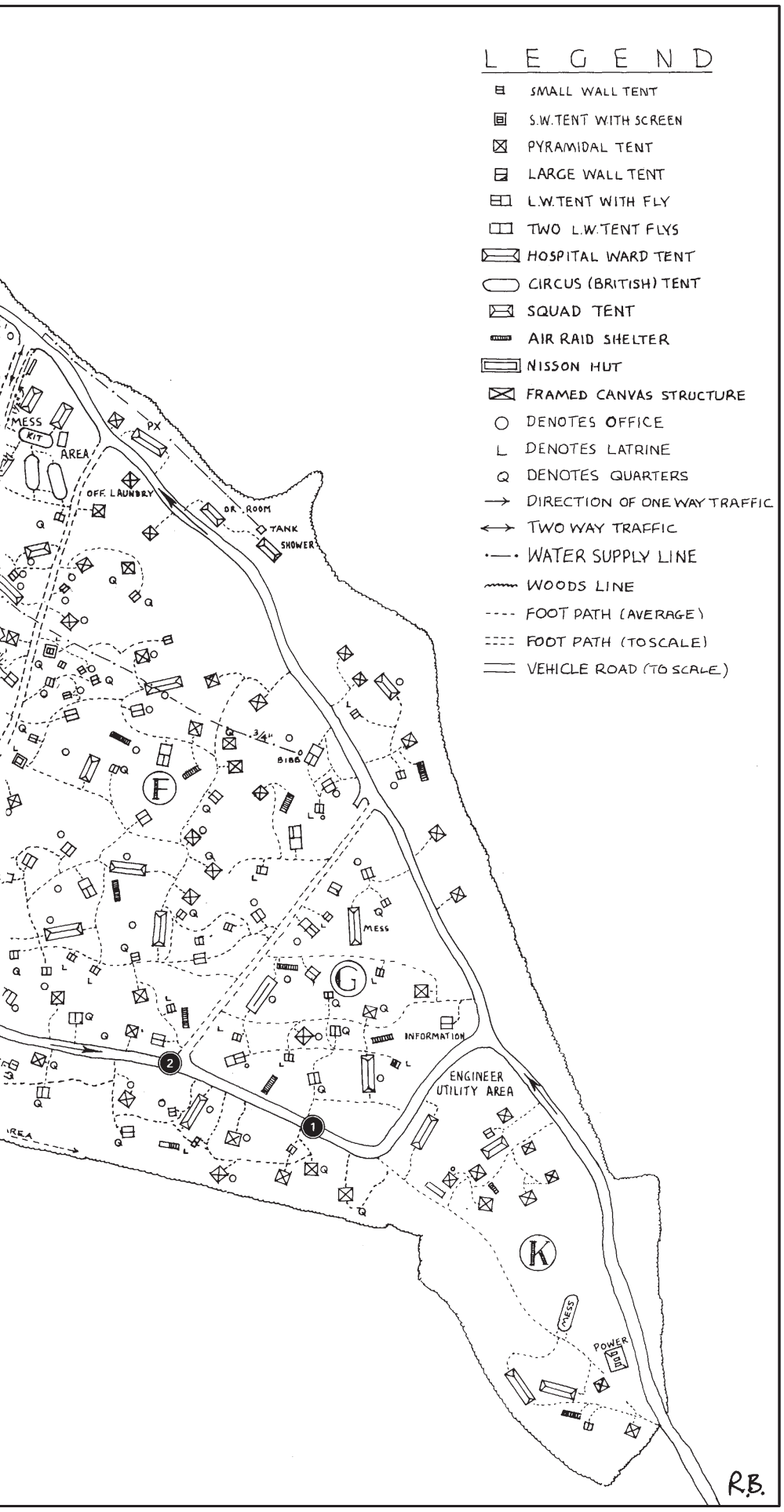
SHAEF

'SHIPMATE'

S I T E P L A N

0 50' 100' 200' 300' 400'

GRAPHIC SCALE



For clarity, Roger Bell's plan omits the tent numbers which are meaningless without the accompanying key. Reference to the Ordnance Survey plan on page 34 shows that the army merely upgraded many of the existing forest paths. These pictures were taken at points [1] (*above*) and [2] (*below*) on the new southern vehicular track and at the site of the trailer [3] (*bottom*).

Events in Normandy moved rapidly later that month. General Montgomery became unpopular with the SHAEF staff because of his apparent slowness during Operation 'Goodwood' on July 18, the attack by three British armoured divisions preceded by heavy air bombardment east of Caen. It may be argued in Montgomery's defence that his real aim was to make only a limited advance in order to assist Operation 'Cobra' on July 25, the attack by six American divisions under General Bradley, west of St Lô. The plan to launch the two operations simultaneously was bedevilled by postponements due to bad weather and the link between them not made clear to SHAEF. However, the tension was relieved by the success of the American break-out during the last days of July. Then Lieutenant General George S. Patton's Third Army was launched, west into Britanny, south to the Loire and east towards Paris.

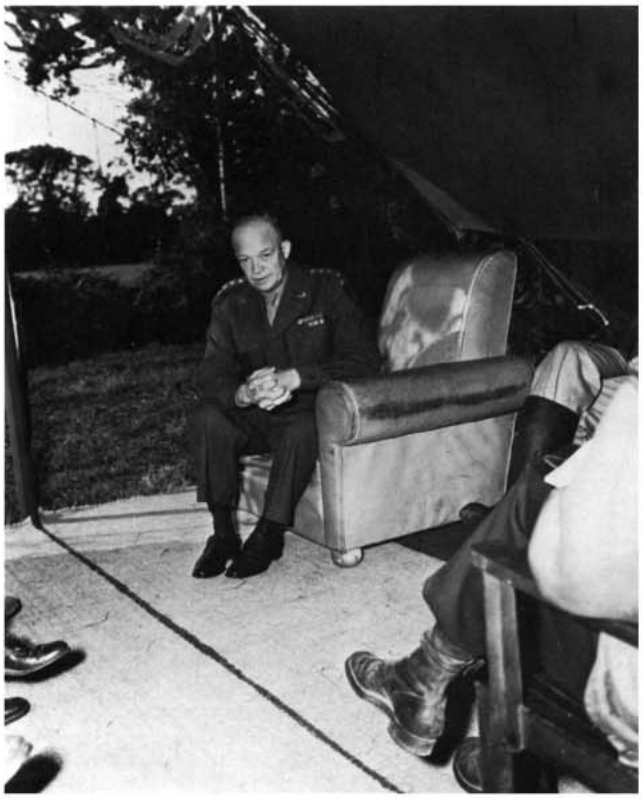
Exactly two months after D-Day, General Eisenhower moved his Advance Command Post, now re-named 'Shellburst', to Normandy. Although he had been commuting regularly from 'Sharpener' to France, Tedder had been pressing the Supreme Commander to establish a tactical headquarters on the Continent to permit closer liaison with the forces on the battlefield. A signal timed at 1909 on Monday, August 7, advised that SHAEF Advance Command Post was 'opening today at map ref. 6074'. Coping with a steady stream of visitors and official sightseers must have been a frustrating distraction. This parliamentary party, led by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Colonel D. Clifton Brown (on Eisenhower's left), dropped into 'Shellburst' on August 16 during a tour of the British and American sectors. (USA)

SHAEF ADVANCED CP: 'SHELLBURST'

On June 27, General Crawford had notified 21st Army Group Main that 61 'vehicles of SHAEF CP', including trucks and trailers, together with 10 officers and 190 enlisted men, would embark for Omaha, Gold or Juno on June 30. This shipment may have been connected with Major George S. Bare of Eisenhower's staff who in a letter of June 18 had specified tentage for a proposed SHAEF Tactical Headquarters (not set up) at Portsmouth near the Advance Command Post. In a message from SHAEF Forward (at 'Shipmate') to SHAEF Headquarters Command on July 23, General Smith said that Eisenhower would use camp accommodation provided by Major Bare, on the Continent, on or soon after July 30. A small party of signals staff, led by Colonel Smijth-Windham, would travel to the place to check communications in advance. Smijth-Windham passed a message to his chief, Major General C. H. H. Vulliamy, the SHAEF signals commander, on July 31 from 'SHAEF Advance Command Post'. This was apparently the site at Maisons, near Bayeux, known as the SHAEF Visitors' Camp.

Smijth-Windham's message explains that General Crawford was returning to 'Shipmate' that day. It had been decided to set up a new command post for the Supreme Commander near Le Planitre, only a few kilometres from A-9, the airstrip at Le Molay, west of Bayeux. Captain Larry Hansen, Eisenhower's personal pilot, had begun to fly the general there quite regularly from July 20 onwards, to make contact with his commanders. The new camp would be ready by noon on August 5 with minimum communications provided. But apparently Eisenhower never used it. On August 7, Forward Headquarters at 'Shipmate' sent messages announcing the opening of the new SHAEF Advance Command Post, code-named

Ike shows his visitors to the 'door' — a walk of some 200 yards or so from the office tent. (EL)

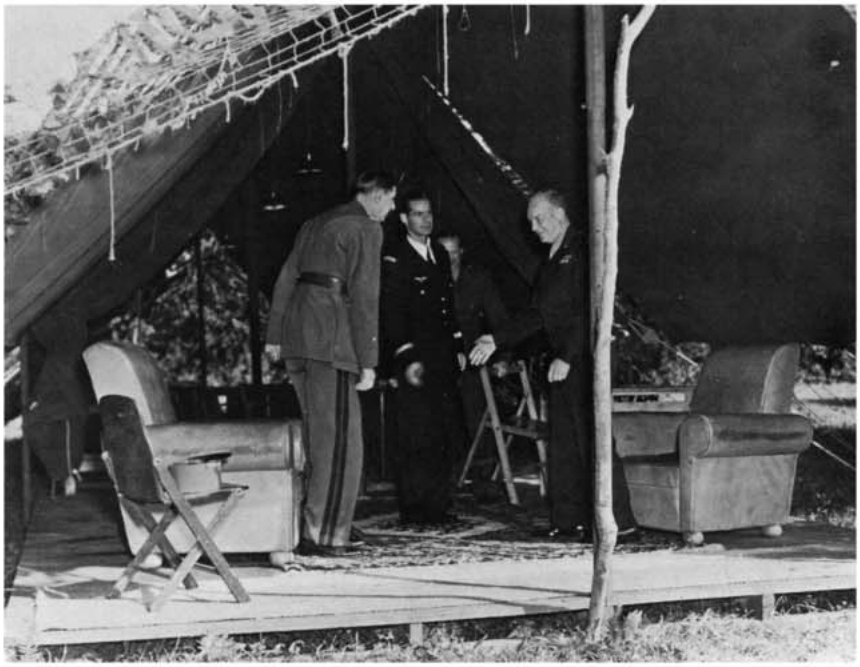


More important on the 16th was the press conference held at 'Shellburst' to officially release the names of Lieutenant General Patton as commander of the US Third Army and Lieutenant General Courtney H. Hodges as that of the First. Patton had already achieved a spectacular advance through Brittany — moving so fast that the spearheads had run off their maps — and Eisenhower was being pressed to announce the name of the commander responsible. However, at first, he was reluctant to agree, telling Butcher, 'Why should I tell the enemy?' Cliff Williams visited the site of 'Shellburst' in October 1993 and established from the shadows that the office tent faced south with the same tree line beyond the hedge visible in both these photographs. (The black line on the floor is not a shadow but the gap between two strips of coco-matting.) (EL)

After the months of detailed planning for the actual landings in Normandy, Eisenhower's move to France marked the beginning of a new phase in the conduct of the war in which politics came increasingly to the fore. The Allied victory at Falaise, and the subsequent rout of the German forces in the West, led the top political players to look to their futures. The first major problem to beset the Supreme Commander was that of Général de Gaulle, who now expected to be installed as France's political leader. Roosevelt opposed such recognition but the impending liberation of Paris (see *After the Battle* No. 14) meant that the matter could no longer be avoided. This picture is dated August 21 when the British Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, arrived to discuss the situation. Note the tree — a cherry — directly behind Eisenhower's head (USA)

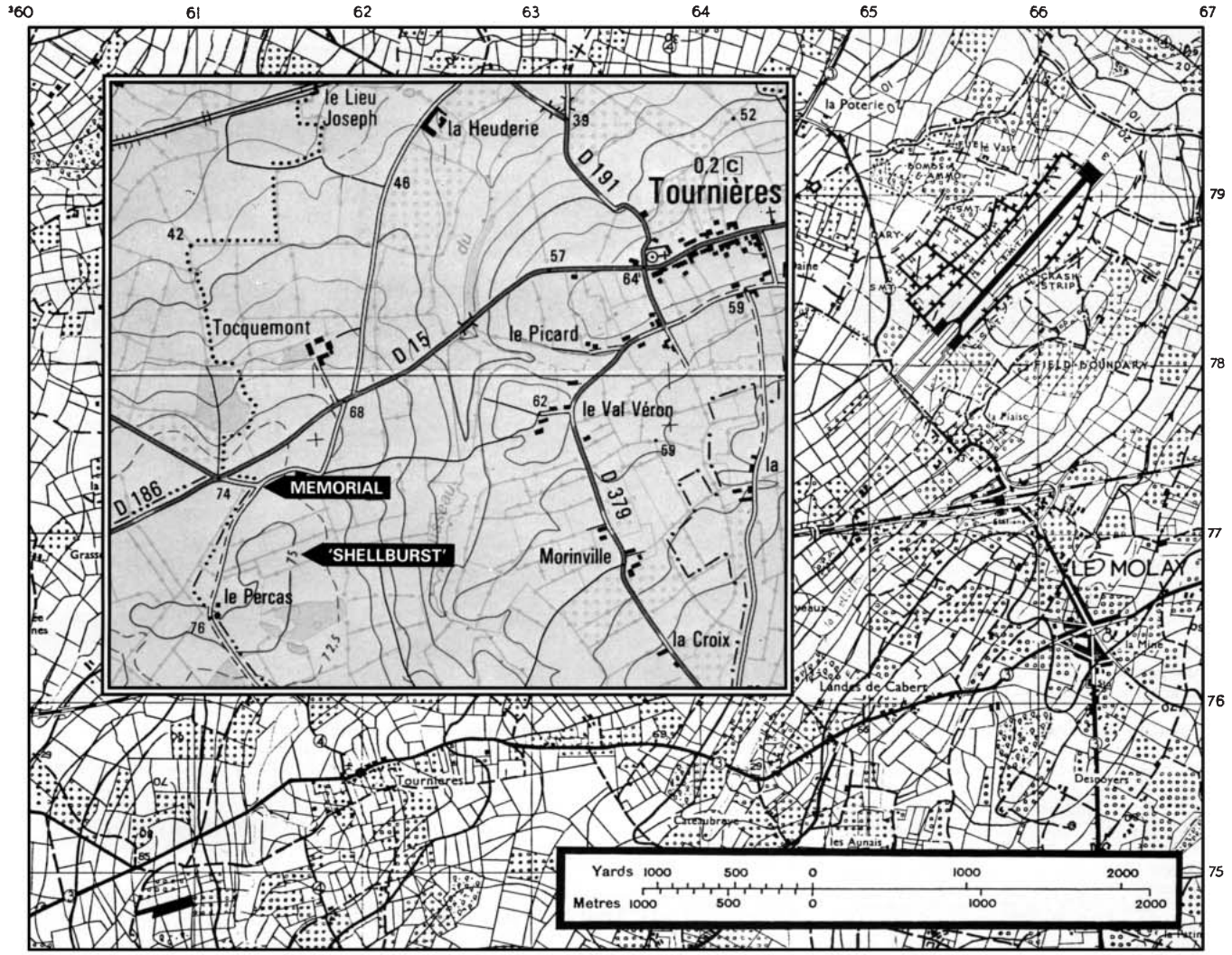
'Shellburst', giving its telephonic and telegraphic details together with those of the SHAEF Visitor's Camp. They would eventually be known as Command Posts 12 and 21 respectively. 'Shellburst' was situated in an apple orchard near the village of Tournières, west of Le Molay. As Butcher describes it, there were four caravans for sleeping and two large office tents with wooden floors, one for the general and one for his aides, and small tents for the staff: ' We are surrounded by hedgerows ten feet high, except on the east, where the hedge has been trimmed to permit a view of an adjoining field where liaison planes may land.'

The cherry tree on the left still survives, although the apple orchard has since been uprooted, leaving an open field.

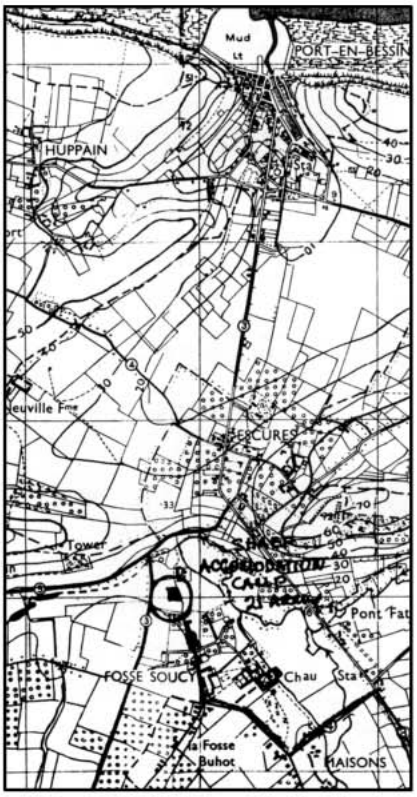


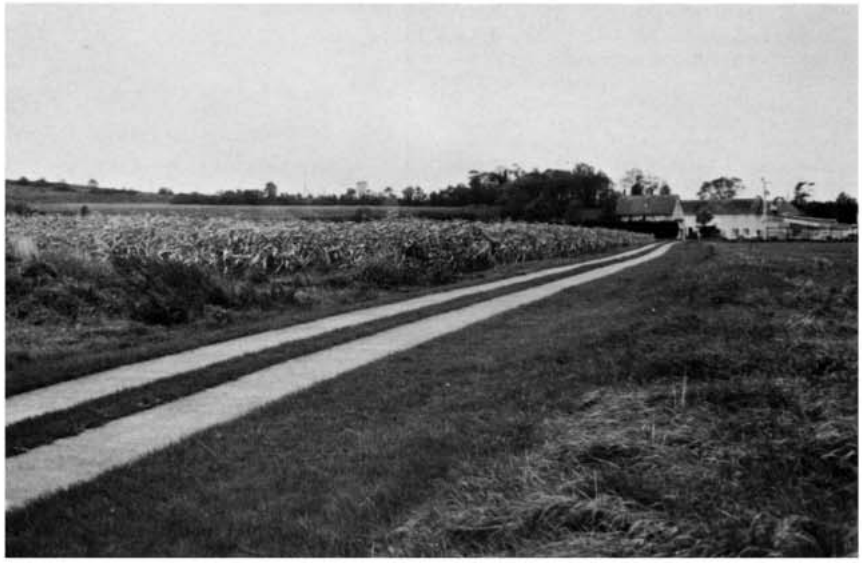
After conferring with President Roosevelt, Général de Gaulle had returned to his headquarters at Algiers preparatory to flying to France. He arrived at Cherbourg on August 18 just as Resistance forces in Paris had openly revolted against the Germans. The Général came to see Eisenhower at 'Shellburst' on the 21st when he was accompanied by Général Pierre Koenig whom de Gaulle had already named as military governor of Paris. Considering their last frosty 'discussion' at 'Sharpener' on June 4, Ike seems quite pleased — even jovial — although he is about to reject de Gaulle's demands to send troops to Paris! (EL)

The documents of the period only quote 'Shellburst' as a four-figure grid reference (6074) which basically only gives the location to within a kilometre map square, and it was Madame Bouvier-Muller *(above)* of the French-American Ninth Air Force Normandy Airfields Association who finally pinpointed the exact spot in 1990 near Tournières. *Above right:* On June 6 that year, as part of the Eisenhower centennial commemorations, another plaque, like the one at Norfolk House, was dedicated by a United States Department of Defense delegation including members of the General's family, stating that 'near this site, General Eisenhower established the Supreme Headquarters' first command post on the European continent'. However, the memorial has been sited by a road junction nearly 300 yards from the actual location, surely misleading these SHAEF veterans into thinking that the field they are looking at behind the monument is the correct one. *Right:* This is the unmarked gate leading to the authentic location of 'Shellburst'.

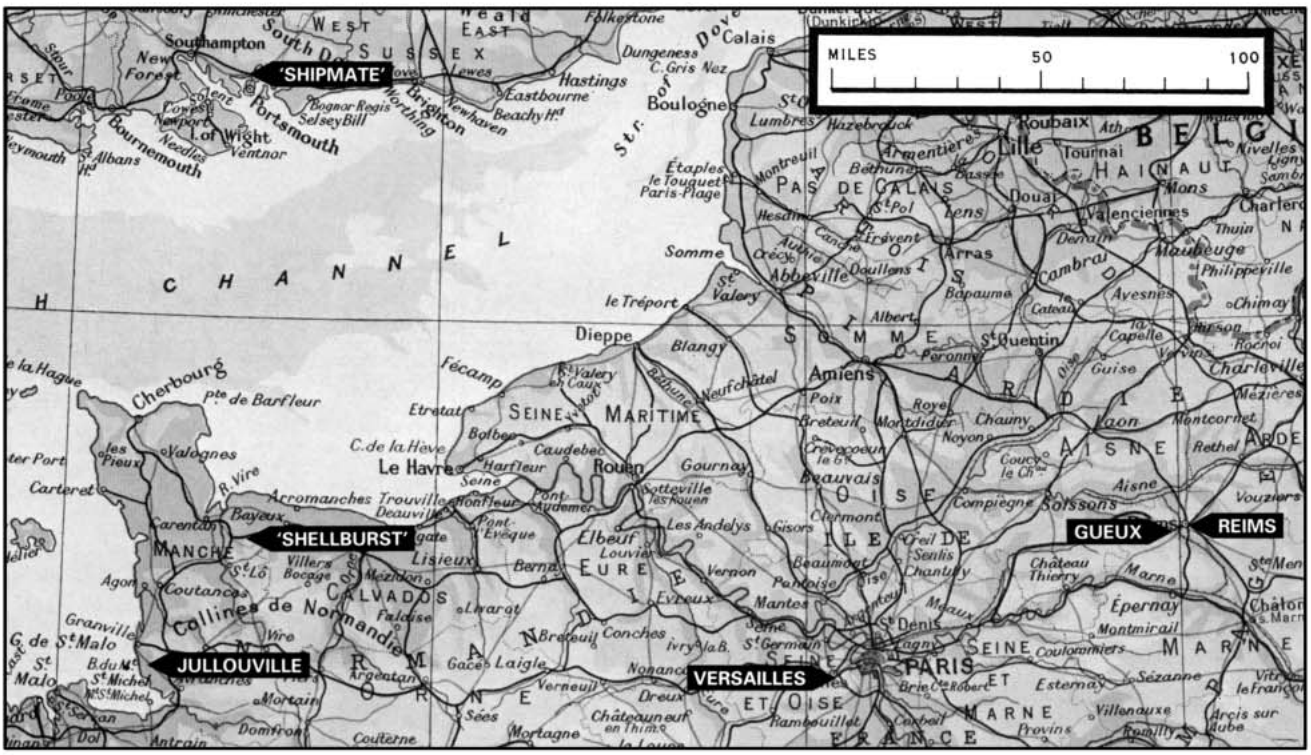


We have blacked in the site of 'Shellburst' on this extract from the 1943 edition of Sheet 34/16NE and also overlaid the layout of airstrip A-9D at Le Molay (12 kilometres south-west of Bayeux on the D5), which had been completed on July 8 and was frequently used by General Eisenhower. The inset is from the present day IGN Sheet 1412 Ouest.





Left: **In the signal announcing the establishment of 'Shellburst' on August 7, the 'SHAEF Advance Command Post 2', expected to be known as 'SHAEF Visitors Camp', was stated as being in map square 7383. However, this map from the same SHAEF file shows its precise location just north-west of Maisons in grid square 7485.** *Above:* **Cliff Williams visited the field marked in October 1993 — it is the one planted with corn to the left of the track. As a venue for accommodating the increasingly-numerous visitors, it was ideally situated right on the boundary between the US First and British Second Armies, and sufficiently far away from 'Shellburst' (some 20 kilometres as the crow flies) so as not to interfere with operations at the main CP. However, unlike 'Shellburst', no plaque or memorial, correct or incorrect, marks its passing.**

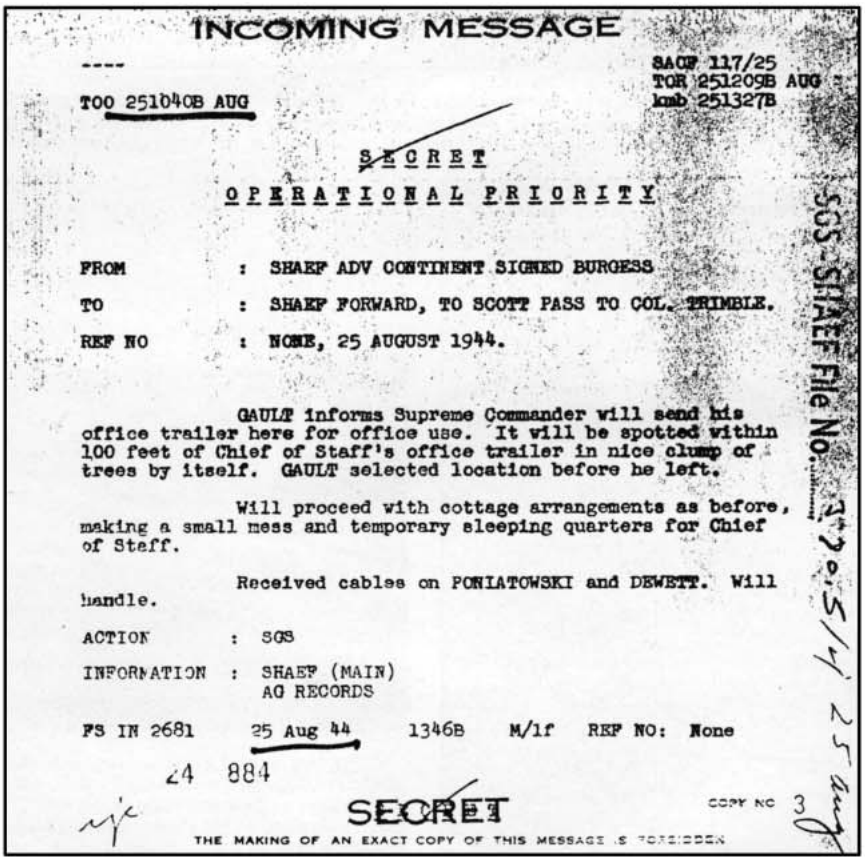


Following the collapse of German forces in Normandy, undoubtedly the speed of the Allied advance across France surprised everyone. SHAEF Forward had no sooner become established at the 'Shipmate' site near Portsmouth, than steps were being taken to transfer the headquarters to the Continent. However, this was easier said than done and, in the two months that it took to choose a site and organise the move, the front had moved 150 miles to the east. Supreme Headquarters never really caught up with itself: in a way, it was a victim of its own success. The map shows the next three moves across France.

SHAEF FORWARD HQ: JULLOUVILLE

Meanwhile, SHAEF Forward Headquarters would soon move to the Continent too. On July 6, after it had occupied the 'Shipmate' site for less than a week, Major General Bull announced the intention of moving the headquarters to the Continent. Major decisions were to be taken at Forward Headquarters whilst the preparation of data on which decisions were based, and the detailed work flowing from them, would remain the responsibility of Main Headquarters in England. Bull appended to his letter to all chiefs of divisions the same allotment table used in setting up 'Shipmate', asking that requests for increase of allotment should be quickly submitted. On July 20, the approved revisions were notified and showed substantial increases for G-2, G-3, G-4, G-5 (Civil Affairs) and Signals divisions. The new allotment totalled 288 officers and 453 enlisted men/other ranks, which was an overall increase of some 257 over the previous allotment total.

Major General Vulliamy wisely pointed out to the Chief-of-Staff that signals personnel were supposed to be on the Continent for essential preparatory purposes 25 days before the Forward Headquarters opened there, but might not actually receive this time. However, he suggested, they could be sent at once and perhaps loaned to 21st Army Group. General Smith accepted this suggestion, mentioning when making his offer to Montgomery on July 18 that it was 'contemplated establishing the Forward Echelon of this Headquarters in the area Carentan–Periers–St Lô soon after the area becomes tenable.' Eighteen days later, after the dramatic American break-out and the advance to Avranches and beyond had taken place, Vulliamy wrote again to Smith. It is clear from his letter (August 5) that Granville as well as the St Lô area were now being considered as a possible location for the headquarters. Vulliamy's problem was to try and encourage a positive choice. He pointed out that if St Lô were chosen immediately, preparatory signals work could be handled by SHAEF Signals alone and that the Forward Headquarters could be opened by the end of August. If Granville were chosen, extra help would be needed from the signals sections of the army groups or Com Z



INCOMING MESSAGE

SACF 117/25
TOR 251209B AUG
kmb 251327B

TOO 251040B AUG

SECRET

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

FROM : SHAEF ADV CONTINENT SIGNED BURGESS

TO : SHAEF FORWARD, TO SCOTT PASS TO COL. TRIMBLE.

REF NO : NONE, 25 AUGUST 1944.

GAULT informs Supreme Commander will send his office trailer here for office use. It will be spotted within 100 feet of Chief of Staff's office trailer in nice clump of trees by itself. GAULT selected location before he left.

Will proceed with cottage arrangements as before, making a small mess and temporary sleeping quarters for Chief of Staff.

Received cables on PONIATOWSKI and DEWETT. Will handle.

ACTION : SGS

INFORMATION : SHAEF (MAIN)
AG RECORDS

FS IN 2681 25 Aug 44 1346B M/lf REF NO: None

24 884

SECRET

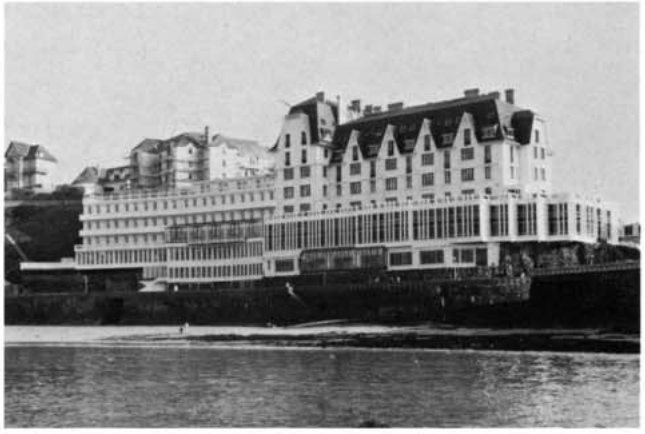
COPY NO 3

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

SGS-SHAEF File No. 2 25 Aug

By September 1944, with the battle so far away, Eisenhower's personal headquarters was temporarily merged on the same site as SHAEF Forward established at Jullouville, a small town at the base of the western side of the Cotentin peninsula, until a new site for the command post could be found nearer the front.

The new SHAEF signals centre had been established mid-August some eight kilometres from Jullouville, in the Hotel



Normandie at Granville, the target for a German commando raid in March 1945 (see *After the Battle* No. 47).

(Communications Zone — the headquarters controlling the American supply organisation) and a mid-September opening of the headquarters would be more realistic. Vulliamy heard from General Crawford (G-4) on August 6 that the Granville area had been definitely chosen.

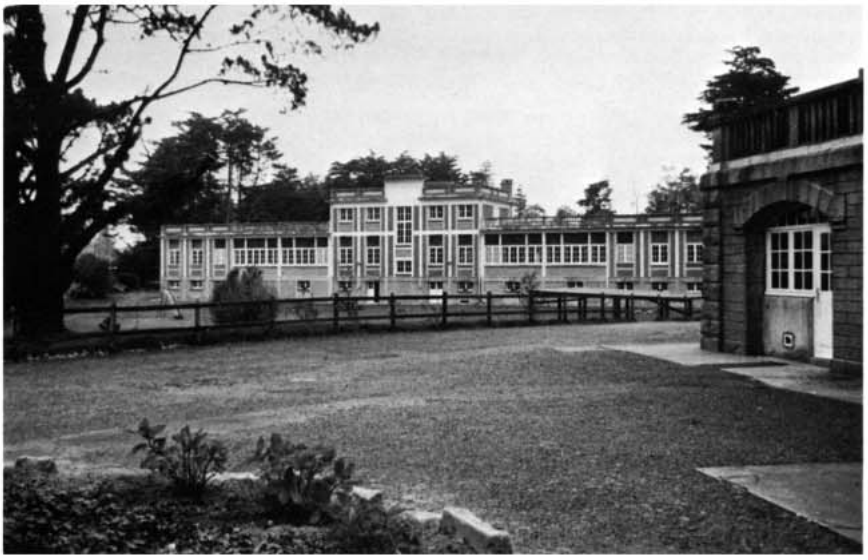
Perhaps the most awkward problem that SHAEF Forward Headquarters had to contend with when it moved to Granville was its inadequate communications. After Vulliamy had heard that Granville had been selected, he tried to secure September 15 as the opening date, arguing that this would require three construction companies to build communications as opposed to the six that would be needed if September 1 were to be chosen.

On August 10 at the SHAEF Visitors Camp, a Colonel Hamlin was passing through, making for a school building at Jullouville south of Granville. The Colonie Scolaire de St Ouen was actually a summer holiday centre for the children and parents of St Ouen on the Seine near Paris, a long, very narrow building with a centre block of three stories and two wings each of two storeys. Hamlin's message to General Smith at Forward Headquarters in Britain, sent on August 12, claimed that the basement and also the ground floor of the south wing would be needed for 'SHAEF Signals, SMC, DRLS, AG, M and D'. Alternatively, huts could be used in the area, except for telephones if SHAEF Main were to be based there. An entire room would be needed in the south wing for SHAEF Forward if huts were not available.

Forward Headquarters (in Britain) announced that the SHAEF signal centre had been established in the Hotel Normandie at Granville on August 16 and would be known as 'Liberty'. Other messages indicate that USSTAF was to be located in the hotel, as were certain high-ranking officers of AEAF. On August 19, General Bull on behalf of the Chief-of-Staff, gave the closure date for 'Shipmate' as September 1, on which date Forward Supreme Headquarters would also open at Jullouville. Staff would move in five echelons, three by air, on August 28 and 30 and September 1. Forward Headquarters ANCXF and USSTAF would be at Granville whilst public relations signal centre and Forward Headquarters AEAF would be at Jullouville with SHAEF Forward. The personnel total for the latter had now grown to 318 officers and 475 enlisted men/other ranks but the attached units now pushed up the overall total to over 3,000.

The prospect of moving the headquarters into Europe meant extensive organisation. The Deputy Supreme Commander, Air Marshal Tedder, and the Deputy Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Norman Bottomley, were to make the journey as were also the Chief-of-Staff, General Smith, and the Deputy Chief-of-Staff, General Morgan. Arrangements had to be made for all details of their flights and to transport their personal vehicles and trailers. Back at 'Widewing', Major General Ray W. Barker, chief of the G-1 division, had arranged in mid-August for the chief personnel of his division to be

This monument located on a roundabout in Jullouville proclaims that 'Le Général Eisenhower, Commandant des Armées Alliées' installed 'ici son Quartier-generale' in 'Aout 1944'.



The actual headquarters was centred on the Colonie Scolaire de St Ouen school.

The Villa Montgommery lies six kilometres south of Jullouville, up a steep drive above the road at Saint-Jean-le-Thomas. Eisenhower stayed here for two weeks at the beginning of September, its main claim to fame being that during much of that period he was housebound due to an accident he suffered on the beach below the house.

transferred to 'Shipmate' just before they left for Jullouville. In an atmosphere of flights arriving and cars being sent to meet the VIPs, Colonel Ernest Lee of the Supreme Commander's personal staff cabled his chief: 'Camp in a state of flux and suggest the General does *not* arrive until Friday'.

The offices at the headquarters in Jullouville were housed in temporary huts in the grounds of the school and quarters for most of the staff were in tents. The building was used for the signals centre, the war room and for messes.

On August 30, General Eisenhower flew to London from Tournières to see the Prime Minister and hold a press conference. His return flight took him to Jullouville and to quarters at the Villa Montgommery on the coast further south, which looked out from high ground to the ancient abbey of Mont St Michel across the bay. Colonel Gault, his British aide, had been to inspect the villa and headquarters the week before, seeking office space for his chief. Gault thought it possible that the cottage set aside as quarters for General Smith, until his sleeping trailer arrived, might serve as an office for Eisenhower or he might use a trailer, or space in the headquarters building. In the end, the Supreme Commander's office trailer was sent across from Britain and parked in an exclusive clump of trees within 100 feet of Smith's trailer (which was brought from 'Shipmate' in a convoy with three trucks full of classified documents).

By now, the battlefront had passed well to the east and, soon after his arrival, Eisenhower had to fly to meet Bradley at Chartres. The B-25 had to abort on the return flight, Eisenhower completing the last leg of the journey in an L-5 liaison plane, landing not far from the villa and injuring his leg while helping to move the plane.

Major Larry Hansen, Eisenhower's pilot, explains what happened: 'On September 2, 1944, we took off early in the morning in the B-25 to Laval to pick up General Hoyt Vandenburg. General Eisenhower was aboard en route to a meeting with General Bradley at Chartres. Upon landing at Laval, we found nothing but a mud hole and the field was very rough so I radioed the four P-47 escorts not to land. From there we flew our passengers into Chartres and met General Bradley. We were informed by General Smith that a heavy storm was kicking up at our destination, Pontorson [across the bay from Granville], and that we should not waste too much time at Chartres. We took off as quickly as possible and, right after take-off, we noticed the right engine was on fire. Flames were shooting out around the engine nacelle and we immediately turned and landed again at Chartres. We found due to the rough field at Laval, we had broken several exhaust stacks and the fire was burning the ignition harness and other flammable items within the nacelle. In the meantime, Dick Underwood, my co-pilot, rode with Major Robinson, who was General Bradley's pilot, and they flew General Eisenhower back to Pontorson. Upon landing, the weather was very bad but Dick elected to fly the General back to Granville across the water in an L-5 which we kept at Pontorson in order to commute between there and Granville. Dick took off but the weather became so bad he had to land on the beach. In order to save the plane from the incoming tide, the General and Dick pulled the airplane higher on the beach and in so doing the General wrenched his knee badly.'

When we called at the Villa Montgommery, we were made very welcome and proudly shown two forks, stamped 'US', which we were told were left behind when the Americans departed.

However, the claim on the plate now mounted on one of the tables, even allowing for the incorrect date, can only be described as a little over the top!

In this round up of the various Supreme Headquarters used for the Normandy campaign, strictly speaking one should end the coverage at Jullouville. However, as that would leave the story incomplete, let us briefly see the task through — like SHAEF did — to its logical conclusion.

area of St Germain-en-Laye at about the same time.

Once installed at Versailles, SHAEF communications improved rapidly through the assistance of the French post, telegraph and telephone service (PTT). A Paris Military Switchboard was established, linked via the PTT system and radio circuits were in operation by early September so that the Supreme Commander could keep in direct contact with his army group commanders. By October, the headquarters was functioning well, enabling Eisenhower to maintain close control of operations. Meanwhile, back in Britain, SHAEF Rear moved from Bushy Park to various buildings in Bryanston Square in the West End of London with a small contingent remaining at Norfolk House and in the deep shelter at Goodge Street.

SHAEF MAIN HQ: VERSAILLES

There was little time to settle in at Jullouville and perhaps make improvements to the facilities, because Eisenhower had decided almost immediately to transfer SHAEF Forward Headquarters to Versailles. General Bull announced on September 10 that the headquarters would close at Jullouville and re-open at the Trianon Palace Hotel, Versailles, on September 20. An advance party would travel by road on September 15 and the main body of personnel travel, mainly by road, in three equal echelons on the 17th, 19th and 21st. As well as the Trianon Palace Hotel, the old stables (écuries) of the palace were to be used together with three other hotels, the Réservoirs, Royale and Vatel. Special staff sections would occupy the Grandes Écuries and the air staff the Petites Écuries. Officers were billeted in private houses, with enlisted men in the Satory Barracks. On October 4, the status of the headquarters changed because on that date SHAEF Main was closed and rejoined SHAEF Forward at Versailles. The Forward designation was at this point dropped and the whole became simply SHAEF Main. USSTAF was also transferred to the nearby

The move to Jullouville had been plagued from the outset by bad communications and the establishment of a major headquarters at a point right off the beaten track was ill-judged — the actual comment in the records is 'completely unworkable'. SHAEF Forward was supposed to be in business from September 1 but within five days it had been decided to abandon Jullouville and switch straight to the Paris area where better communications were assured. At the same time, SHAEF Main was to move from Bushy Park and merge with Forward, leaving just Rear in London. Nevertheless, Eisenhower was against a location within the French capital itself, with all the distractions which that would entail, so the Versailles area south-west of the city was chosen. The main headquarters building was the Trianon Palace Hotel *(top)* **where Eisenhower's office** *(left)* **lay behind the balcony with the flags.** *Centre:* **The Trianon is still open for business today, Ike's room now being No. 106. (USA)**

SHAEF ADVANCED CP: GUEUX

In early September, following his policy of working from a small advanced CP, Eisenhower ordered that a camp be set up for him nearer the front line. This was established at Gueux, about five miles west of Reims, and centered on the clubhouse of the Athletic Club. As in Normandy, it consisted of a small staff installed in tents and trailers. The CP opened on September 19, and Eisenhower used it until February 17, 1945, when SHAEF Forward moved to Reims.

Although Main and Forward had merged, Eisenhower still wanted the facility of an Advance Command Post nearer the front and when 'Shellburst' was abandoned, a new CP was established over 200 miles to the east at Gueux, a small village just outside Reims. Although it had the longest life of all the CPs — five months — it does not appear to have had the same 'stature' as 'Sharpener' or 'Shellburst' and appears not to have been given a different code-name. *Left:* **This picture was taken at Gueux on November 14 during the course of Churchill's two-day visit to Paris.** *Right:* **The command post was located in the grounds of what is now the Club de Golf de Reims although there is no plaque to say as much. The Gueux CP closed down when SHAEF Forward separated itself from Main in February 1945, and moved into the Collège Moderne et Technique de Garçons** *(below)* **in Reims proper. In 1984-85, a new entrance (out of the picture to the left) was created to the preserved war room. (SC)**

SHAEF FORWARD HQ: REIMS

By October, plans were already being made for the next move of SHAEF Forward, Verdun, Reims, Luxembourg, Liège, Metz and Spa all being considered. By early December, the choice had fallen on Luxembourg where the US Third Army was establishing its own headquarters and war room in the Fondation Pescatore, a large castle-like building in the centre of the city (see *After the Battle* No. 35). SHAEF wanted the same building but, when the Germans counter-attacked on the 16th in the Ardennes, the move was postponed and, even at Versailles, Eisenhower was considered vulnerable to the perceived threat from a German commando assault on his headquarters. In the event, the Third Army War Room became a useful front line venue for planning the final elimination of the Bulge and the advance into Germany.

By mid-February 1945, SHAEF began its move to Reims and on the 20th the advance party began operating from the Collège Moderne et Technique de Garçons (École Supérieure Commerce) although SHAEF records the name of the school as the 'École Professionelle and the École Pratique de Commerce et d'Industrie'. A modern, three-storeyed building, constructed in 1931 on the Rue Henri Joliauer, this was the building often referred to as 'the little red schoolhouse'. The general staff was located here,

The war room at the Reims Forward HQ (still code-named 'Shipmate'), saw the final drama of the war: the surrender of all German forces to the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and the Soviet High Command. Awaiting the verdict of the German jury are Lieutenant General Morgan; Général François Sevez; Admiral Harold M. Burrough, the new Allied Naval C-in-C following the death of Admiral Ramsay in January; Captain (since promoted) Butcher; Lieutenant General Smith; Lieutenant Ivan Chermiaev; Major General Ivan Susloparoff and General Carl Spaatz. (SC)

Kay joins the celebration in Eisenhower's office further along the corridor. Unfortunately, the reconstruction in 1984-85 created a private apartment which now completely blocks the original corridor, and an exhibition with display boards hides the other windows in the former SHAEF offices. (USA)

SHAEF FORWARD
STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL
OUTGOING MESSAGE

U R G E N T

TO : AGWAR FOR COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF
AMSSO FOR BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF

FROM : SHAEF FORWARD, SIGNED EISENHOWER

REF NO : FWD-20798 TOO: 070325B

The mission of this Allied Force was fulfilled at 0241, local time, May 7th, 1945.

EISENHOWER,

ORIGINATOR : SUPREME COMMANDER AUTHENTICATION: J.B.MOORE,III LT COLONEL

INFORMATION : TO ALL GENERAL AND SPECIAL STAFF DIVISIONS

FS OUT 3674B 7 MAY 1945 0324B JOB/jg REF NO: FWD-20798 TOO : 070325B

COPY NO. 338

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

while the Conservatory of Music and No. 1 Rue Talleyrand were also taken over. Billets for officers were provided in local hotels with enlisted men quartered in the Caserne Jeanne d'Arc and the Caserne Colbert.

The Reims headquarters (which still retained the SHAEF Forward code-name 'Shipmate') was the location of the surrender negotiations with a German delegation on May 5 (see *After the Battle* No. 48), General Eisenhower being able to send a signal to the Combined Chiefs-of-Staff in Washington at 3.21 a.m. on May 7: 'The mission of this Allied Force was fulfilled at 0241 local time, May 7, 1945.'

June 10, 1945: the military leaders of the victorious Allies celebrate at SHAEF's final headquarters in Frankfurt. (IWM)

SHAEF'S POST-WAR HQ: FRANKFURT

General Eisenhower was effectively relieved of his responsibilities with the establishment of the Allied Control Council in Berlin on June 5 (see *Berlin Then and Now*). Meanwhile, SHAEF was busy installing itself in the impressive I.G. Farbenindustrie building in Frankfurt am Main and closing its headquarters in Versailles and Reims.

With its mission accomplished, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, as a combined Allied command structure, was to be terminated, and plans were announced on July 6 for the separation of the British and US elements. The former, under Field-Marshal Montgomery became the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) while General Eisenhower assumed the rôle of commanding general of the US Forces in the European Theater (USFET). Disbandment of SHAEF was scheduled for July 1 but delayed on Eisenhower's request until the 13th so that he could return from the United States for a final farewell to his staff, the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force being formally disolved at 0001, July 14, 1945.

SHINGLE STREET

By James Hayward

On a wild and desolate stretch of Suffolk coastline, 12 miles east of Ipswich, lies the isolated fishing hamlet of Shingle Street. Many maps omit the village, perhaps justifiably, for visitors will find there few amenities. Its public house, the Lifeboat Inn, was blasted by Barnes Wallis more than 50 years ago, and today many of the houses are fair-weather holiday homes.

Yet, Shingle Street is surrounded by mystery. To the north lies Orfordness. A secret site since the First World War, the island has played host to a bewildering variety of hush-hush military installations, including an RAF experimental flying field, and, in 1935, the first Air Ministry radar station. Post-war residents have included the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment. In 1993, Orfordness, by then half wilderness, half military junkyard, was sold to the National Trust by the Ministry of Defence for £292,500.

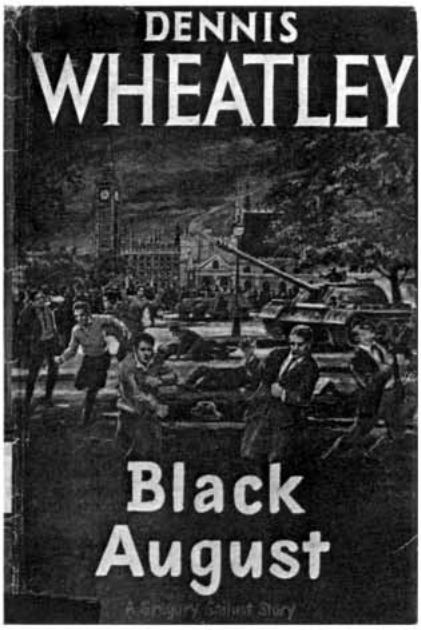
A few miles to the south, on the mouth of the River Deben, stands Bawdsey Manor. This striking neo-Jacobean pile succeeded Orfordness as the principal Air Ministry radar research station in 1936, and, following the outbreak of war, served as a regular Chain Home radar station. During the 1960s, three of the four 350-foot steel masts were demolished to make way for a Bloodhound missile site. Now decommissioned, RAF Bawdsey is also for sale.

Sandwiched between Bawdsey and Orfordness at the centre of Hollesley Bay, Shingle Street, too, boasts a secret history. At the Public Record Office lies a slim, yellowing Ministry of Home Security dossier detailing 'Evacuation of civil population from the village of Shingle Street in East Suffolk'. Indexed as HO 207/1175, its contents were originally to have remained an Official Secret until 2021.

After 1974, this inexplicable secrecy boggled minds across East Anglia. It was all to do with a secret bomb, some hinted. Others found room for the Ultra secret. Then, in 1992, allegations that a German raiding force was burned to death there in 1940 exploded across the national press. The rumours soon spread to include fatal chemical warfare trials and a suppressed friendly-fire disaster.

The result was the kind of undignified media scramble spurred by the Hitler Diaries. The next five months saw a public outcry, the tabling of questions in the House of Commons, the declassification of HO 207/1175 some 29 years ahead of schedule, and rigorous denials by the Ministry of Defence. All of which went some way towards proving, as I hope this article does, that the reality of Shingle Street's wartime past was somewhat more prosaic.

Shingle Street — a name synonymous with lurid stories about 'the invasion that failed' — lies on the Suffolk coast east of Ipswich. It was evacuated in June 1940 as part of the East Coast Defence Area when extensive minefields were laid and the beaches obstructed to try to prevent landings. Then, social life at the tiny fishing hamlet had centred on the Lifeboat Inn — the only substantial building in the area; now, Shingle Street is the almost exclusive habitat of the weekend fisherman.



(EXERCISE)
IN LOG

Date	Time	From	To	Message	Action
29	1310	Sub-Sector No.6.	55 Div	Heavy fighting reported WOODBRIDGE By Pass. Confused fighting in WOODBRIDGE. Enemy M/U at OTLEY. ASHBOCKING, BRAUNSTON, etc.	Corps informed See
29	1320	50 Bn Northants	55 Div	Explosion from WATTISHAM probably Bomb Dump. Fires starting around Aerodrome. 200 ± 250 parachutists in area HITCHAM. Clerks etc. lent to 163 to restore communications.	Corps informed See
29	1325	87 Fd Regt.	55 Div	IPSWICH heavily damaged and many casualties. Strong enemy force arrived on outskirts of town from HADLEIGH.	
29	1430	11 Corps	55 Div	Report present situation in area OAKLEY M.69, EYE M.39	Done See
29	1516	FOIO HADLEIGH	15 Div 55 Div 11 Corps	Enemy troops landing in DOVERCOURT BAY at 1850 hrs. Heavy air action against town and naval base.	
29	1522	15 Div	11 Corps rptd 55 Div	Situation 1400 See 107 Little progress. Confused fighting in HADLEIGH, FRINTON, and WALTON captured etc.	
29	1545	157 Bde	55 Div	Have received GRUNDISBURGH. Sniped en-route at ASHBOCKING and OTLEY. Advance pointing at DALLINGHOO. Heavily engaged with tanks and Armd Cars. Traffic control now existing and packed with refugees.	
29	1600	Coast Cds SHINGLE ST.	55 Div. FOIO HADLEIGH	Gunfire heard and flashes seen bearing 100 degrees from ORFORDNESS approx. 4 miles at 0700 hrs	
29	1600	Coast Gd ORFORDNESS	55 Div	Enemy surface craft approaching landing at WALTON and SHINGLE STREET.	
29	1600	Coast Gd. SHINGLE ST.	55 Div. FOIO HADLEIGH	Enemy landing 1 mile South of SHINGLE STREET.	

In June 1940, the occult/thriller writer Dennis Wheatley submitted to the War Office a 12,000-word paper — *Resistance to Invasion* — on theoretical German invasion plans, as well as possible counter-measures. These included the removal of signposts, which was soon adopted, and a 230-mile barrier of fishing nets to foul the propellors of German landing craft, which was not. Wheatley also urged that in the battle to come 'our most important ally will be fire', by virtue of fire ships and the spreading of flaming oil over coastal waters to ignite enemy craft. His novel *Black August* *(left)* concerns a Communist takeover of the United Kingdom, during which the village of Shingle Street is turned into an improvised fortress. One chapter boasts the title *Burn Them! Burn Them!*, while the height of the action includes dialogue such as ' "Shingle Street", she flung at him with a desperate effort. "They'll be burnt alive unless you take me to the Town Hall." ' Unhappily for those eager to draw conspiratorial conclusions, however, *Black August* was first published in 1934. *Right:* In reality, the only enemy landing near Shingle Street took the form of this theoretical XI Corps exercise on July 29, 1940, as preserved in file WO 166 at the Public Record Office. Sadly, the outcome of this close-run paper battle is not recorded. It has been claimed that casual sight of this document over the years might have fuelled rumours of a German landing at Shingle Street, although this seems unlikely.

Prior to the outbreak of war on September 3, 1939, Shingle Street had subsisted as a prosperous fishing hamlet for some 200 years. Initially, the hostilities affected only the four Auxiliary Coastguards, whose duties now included patrolling the beach as far as Bawdsey East Lane each evening. This wearying routine ended in November with the arrival of the 2/4th Battalion, The Essex Regiment. In April 1940, their place was taken, until November, by the 1st Battalion, The Liverpool Scottish, and subsequently the 2nd Battalion of the same regiment.

In June 1940, France fell. On June 17, the Minister of Home Security, Sir John Anderson, created a coastal Defence Area roughly 20 miles in depth between Southend-on-Sea and King's Lynn. In July, the evacuation zone was extended south as far as Portland in Dorset. In East Anglia alone, no less than 127,000 people left coastal towns to make way for the construction of an extensive network of fixed defences, minefields included.

In line with this policy, the Regional Commissioner for the Eastern Region, Will Spens, ordered the complete evacuation of Shingle Street on June 22. Issued under Regulation 16(a) of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939, the order was to take effect before midnight on the 25th, leaving villagers just three days to find alternative accommodation. The Coastguard personnel alone were allowed to stay behind.

Draconian as it seemed, the evacuation of Shingle Street was in the best interests of the civilian population. Work had already begun on an extensive minefield which ran east from Oxley Farm towards the beach, and then south along the shore ridge to Bawdsey East Lane. The danger posed by these primitive devices was underlined by the death of one hapless Royal Engineer engaged in laying them. Worse, the one road leading out of the village, to Hollesley, crossed a narrow humpbacked bridge at Dumb-Boy Sluice. This too had been mined, and at 'Action Stations' was to be blown without further orders.

Although necessary, the evacuation caused no little hardship. The majority of the villagers moved to Hollesley, two miles away, while others chose Bawdsey and Alderton. With just one lorry to assist in the exodus, villagers were able to remove only bare essentials, and many larger chattels such as furniture had to be left behind. Sadly, over the next few months, extensive looting took place.

Tom Abram, a private with the 2nd Battalion, The Liverpool Scottish, stationed at Bawdsey East Lane, recalls the humdrum routine of Home Defence units stationed on the Suffolk coast during the 'invasion summer' of 1940: 'There was a profound lack of action. Whenever enemy fighter planes passed over on their way to Martlesham Heath we had a go with our Bren gun, but with only one tracer bullet to every ten rounds it was futile. In June and later on, we had to "Stand To" from sunset to dawn with orders to hold on at all costs. Although there were constant warnings about imminent invasion, the only German we saw was a dead airman whom we fished out of the sea and carried back to camp on a hurdle.'

The single road inland from Shingle Street was mined at its most vulnerable point — Dumb-Boy Sluice where a pillbox still stood from the 1914-18 war. However, it was not the effects from buried explosives which set the media off in 1992 but that of blazing oil and the rumour that burned German bodies had been washed ashore.

NAZI INVADERS HELD 'CONSUMED BY FIRE'

Blazing Oil on Channel Balked 2 Efforts to Reach Britain, Russian Historian Says

DEAD ARE PUT AT 80,000

Barges Ran Into Flames When R. A. F.'s Bombs Fired Tanks in Water, It Is Stated

This article is by a distinguished Russian publicist and historian, who lived in France for many years before his arrival in New York a few days ago. He has had particularly close contacts with French political circles and was a friend of former Premier Léon Blum and other French leaders.

By BORIS NIKOLAYEVSKY

North American Newspaper Alliance

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14—There have been at least two attempts by the Germans to invade England from the French coast, and in both instances the Nazis were literally

Invasion met fire wall

RARELY a week goes by without another theory emerging about the Shingle Street mystery. The isolated Suffolk hamlet was occupied by troops during the war and a tragic incident is believed to have happened there. The details are contained in a secret file, which is not due to be published until 2021. The Star is campaigning to have the dossier opened immediately.

Here, RUSSELL COOK recounts a new theory about the mystery, while, below, DAVID WEISBLOOM unearths an article from a German magazine furthering the mystery.

OPERATION Sealion, the Nazi plan to over-run Britain, was cancelled by Hitler after a preliminary, small-scale invasion off the English east coast went catastrophically wrong, according to an article in a German military magazine.

A unit comprising SS, Luftwaffe and naval personnel made it to within 100 metres of the coast before being engulfed in fire from oil ignited by British troops.

"The boats containing the SS soldiers caught fire," says Konrad Burg, the author. "Soldiers who had been swimming the short distance to the coast, those trying to save themselves, were all embroiled by the wall of flame.

"Other boats were unable to go near the men for fear of being consumed themselves. They had to turn away together with the few remaining landing craft.

"To complete the disaster that had befallen them, English coastal batteries opened fire with artillery and infantry weapons.

"The Luftwaffe aircraft not only fired at the well-camouflaged English positions, but also inadvertently fired on the struggling German soldiers."

After the failed invasion — mounted to disprove accounts from German agents that Britain had constructed a defensive fire wall along her east coast — Hitler "realised that, at that point in time, there was no possibility of reaching England with an invasion army".

Rumours of the assault on British territory were suppressed in Germany, "generally with draconian methods".

The plot was originally hatched, says Herr Burg, after a Nazi agent photographed "a large flame which was spreading across the surface of the water" off the east coast.

Pictures were shown to the Wehrmacht high command and Hitler himself, but they wrongly concluded that the flames on the water were the result of an oil spill.

This was despite being told that the oil, carried out to sea by pipes, had been ignited by British troops, says Herr Burg.

The date of the article, in Landser magazine, is uncertain, though James Nice, of Colchester, a keen Shingle Street buff, believes it was published in the late 1950s.

The Star wishes to thank Derek Johnson, of Clacton, for sending in the article.

Tale of bodies on beach recalled

THE bodies of German soldiers were collected from a Suffolk beach during a wartime incident — adding further fuel to a mystery exercise off the North Sea coast.

The bodies were scooped up from the Felixstowe area by a group of civilians including Hector Ransome, who used to live in Great Barton.

He has since moved away from the area and it is not known if he is still alive today, but his nephew Terry Basham has just outlined details of the incident which he has remembered vividly since the age of seven.

Mr Basham said it was a story told to him by his relative and one he has never forgotten, confirming previous claims there was a bungled invasion by the enemy linked to the mystery surrounding Shingle Street, near Woodbridge.

Stories have been rife that British soldiers were burnt alive in a mock assault on the coast while there have been counter claims that enemy soldiers were repelled by setting light to the sea.

Details surrounding the tiny fishing hamlet have been stored in secret files in the Public Records Office and are not likely to be published until 2021 — 75 years after the end of the War.

The Evening Star is campaigning to have the dossier opened and Suffolk Coastal MP John Gummer has pledged to discuss the affair with Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke.

Meanwhile, 59-year-old Mr Basham, who lives in Mere Close, Great Barton, confirmed his uncle had reported the sea being set ablaze. He said his relative spent two days in the Felixstowe area helping to clear bodies from the shoreline.

Mr Ransome was deployed as a civilian lorry driver during the war and was called up to help dispose of the dead soldiers.

Mr Basham said: "I remember it as if it was only yesterday even though I was just seven years old at the time. It is something that has stayed in my memory.

"My uncle was a bit of a nomad and I don't know where he is now — he may even be dead.

"He also told me the sea had been set alight and that it was Germans who had tried to land," added Mr Basham.

Residents at Shingle Street were evacuated during the war and it was used by the Army for weaponry and bombing training.

It is thought a tragic accident happened — most likely on a "friendly fire" basis — which the authorities have sought to conceal.

Snap! In 1955, John Baker White, who served with the Directorate of Military Intelligence, claimed that 'the burning-sea story was our first large-scale attempt at a Big Lie, and it proved amazingly successful. It was produced by people who were still amateurs at the game, and projected through a machine still far from complete. But it worked.' Just how successful is clear from these two headlines. The first — NAZI INVADERS HELD 'CONSUMED BY FIRE' — headed a colourful report printed in the *New York Times* on December 15, 1940. The second — INVASION MET FIRE WALL — typifies the media folly which surrounded Shingle Street 52 years later, and appeared in the *Woodbridge Evening Star* on June 8, 1992!

The German flyer, washed ashore at East Lane, Bawdsey on October 30, belonged to the same crew as a second man found near Hollesley that same day, as well as a third at Shingle Street on the 29th. A fourth crew member had washed ashore two days previously at Aldeburgh. All had been in the water for nearly a month, their Heinkel 111 having come down off the Suffolk coast on October 4. This sad crew, the only Germans officially acknowledged as having landed near Shingle Street during the Second World War, can hardly have posed any great military threat.

On September 17, Hitler postponed Operation 'Sealion' indefinitely (see *After the Battle* No. 69). The threat of invasion was by no means ended, however, and eight days later, on the 25th, the following entry was made in the war diary of the 165th Infantry Brigade, covering Hollesley Bay: 'Received a letter from [55] Division stating that a scheme was afoot to produce an impenetrable barrage of flame on the sea to prevent or destroy enemy ships attempting a landing'.

The following day, the brigade dispatched a reply, recommending that flame barrages were required off the following localities:

a) Bawdsey 8057
b) Mouth of River Deben 7855
c) Mouth of River Orwell 7249
d) Felixstowe, from Ferry 7755 to Landguard Fort 7350

The extraordinary history of flame barrages and the Petroleum Warfare Department is recounted in full in my book *Shingle Street — Flame, Chemical and Psychological Warfare in 1940, and the Nazi Invasion that never was*. Of the few operational barrages installed in 1941, one was a small stretch at Wick in Scotland, and another an unsuccessful experimental length at Shoeburyness. No evidence exists of other barrages on the east coast, or that this entry in the 165th Brigade's war diary represents anything more than a passing, if premature, recommendation.

Ronald Harris, an auxiliary coastguard at Shingle Street throughout the war, recalls that on one occasion written instructions were received from the area coastguard headquarters at Walton-on-the-Naze to watch the shoreline for charred bodies. Mr Harris does not recall the date, and in any case saw none.

Yet, this curious instruction is not without significance, for in fact it formed part of a highly-successful black propaganda exercise co-ordinated by the Directorate of Military Intelligence and section SO(1) of the Special Operations Executive (see *After the Battle* No. 75). Launched at a time when Britain faced invasion almost undefended, these several potent rumours held first that a small German landing had been repulsed, and later that a large invasion flotilla had been bombed and incinerated halfway across the Channel, resulting in anything between 30,000 and 80,000 dead. Variants of these alluring Chinese whispers spread like wildfire, particularly across occupied Europe and America, and inevitably filtered back to Britain. Indeed, as the Chief Press Censor, Rear-Admiral George Thomson, confessed: 'In the whole course of the war, there was no story which gave me so much trouble as this one of the attempted German invasion, flaming oil on the water and 30,000 burned Germans'.

In October 1941, the War Office wrote to the Ministry of Home Security indicating that, since Shingle Street was no longer a potential battleground, it might be de-requisitioned. However, it was decided that civilians would not be allowed to return due to the continued danger posed by the beach mines, which had by now accounted for the deaths of another two soldiers and a trespassing civilian.

In the event, the bodies were those of Unteroffizier Walter Reinelt, washed up at Aldeburgh on October 27; Unteroffizier Kurt Blasius, found at Shingle Street two days later; and Lieutenant Hans-Hugo Zingel and Unteroffizier Fritz Winter who came ashore at East Lane, Bawdsey, *(above)* on the 30th. All were buried in Ipswich Municipal Cemetery but were exhumed and moved to Cannock Chase after the war.

Certainly not a rumour was the visit in 1943 of Barnes Wallis who arrived at Shingle Street in this Ford WOA2 to witness the destruction of the Lifeboat Inn in a weapons' test due to take place on March 28.

Then, in September 1942, events at Shingle Street took an altogether more sinister turn. At that time, the Chemical Defence Experimental Station at Porton Down was casting around for an area of land, replete with buildings, on which to conduct trials with a chemical weapon. On its behalf the Ministry of Home Security approached the 12 Regional Commissioners, to request 'suitable evacuated dwelling houses in reasonably good repair, which [the CDES] could use for the purpose of dropping trials of 250lb HE/Chem bombs. The height of release of the bombs would be between 500 ft and 1,000 ft. The bomb wall thickness would be ¼ inch, and its content would be 75lbs TNT, together with a charging of either mustard or a substitute.' (See also *After the Battle* No. 79.)

The MoHS went on to indicate that the most suitable properties might be those situated in existing battle training areas. Indeed, so far as the Army were concerned, it 'might well form a useful adjunct to their general training'. Unsurprisingly, the Army subsequently declined to participate.

Following assurances that the inmates of the nearby Hollesley Bay borstal would not be affected either by blast or poison gas, the CDES were granted leave to bomb Shingle Street. It was stated that the trials were expected to last between seven and ten days, and required pinpoint bombing from a height of between 500 and 1,000 feet.

Porton Down was subsequently informed of the approximate value of all 20 properties which was ascertained in order that the vexed question of compensation could be taken up with the MoHS at a later date. Curiously, however, not until March 17, 1943 was it announced that the trial would take place on a suitable day no later than March 22, subject to weather conditions. In the event, it was postponed a further six days and finally took place on March 28.

An interesting observation as to the significance of the device tested was supplied in 1974 by the late Nora Pierce Butler, a native of Woodbridge. In 1943, Miss Pierce Butler met socially Air Commodore Patrick Huskinson, the blinded Director of Armament Development at the Air Ministry. On learning that Miss Butler knew Shingle Street well, he warned her in confidence that a new type of bomb would shortly be tested on the village. 'There won't be any Shingle Street next week', ran his ominous warning.

The story is lent credence by the fact that the trial was overseen by none other than Barnes Wallis. When not designing aircraft, Wallis spent considerable time and effort devising new types of bomb, including that deployed by No. 617 Squadron against the German dams, and the 'Tallboy' and 'Grand Slam' deep-penetration weapons. (See *After the Battle* Nos. 3 and 79.)

The bombs used on March 28 contained four gallons of dyed methyl salicylate (oil of wintergreen), an innocuous substitute for mustard gas, which could be readily traced by sight and smell amongst the debris to show the extent of contamination.

Following the evacuation of the coastguards, large yellow markers were painted around the Lifeboat Inn. The inn had originally been built on the proceeds of salvage money earned from the operation of a lifeboat prior to the foundation of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. In 1939, Bert Simpson had taken over the tenancy, paying the Cobbold brewery an annual ground rent of £1. In 1943, as it was the only substantial two-story building in the village, the inn was selected as the principal target. Never again would salty regulars savour a pint of ale on the seaward veranda.

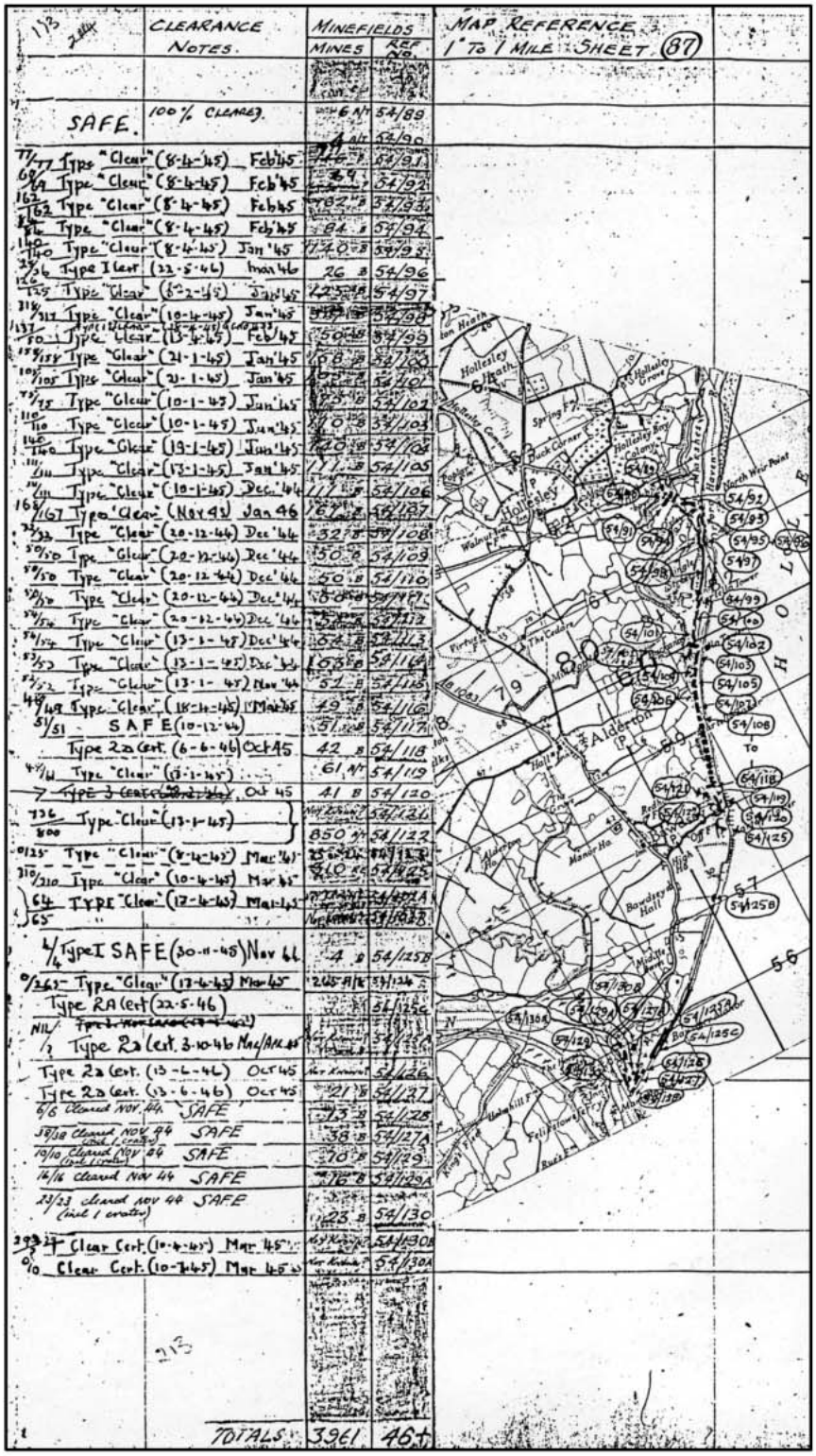
The prevailing weather conditions were of paramount importance to Wallis. Percy Darvell, then an auxiliary fireman, recalls that his crew were called out from Woodbridge for several dry runs before a twin-engined aircraft finally flew in low from Bawdsey and released the bomb, scoring a direct hit on the Lifeboat Inn. The blast damage to the inn and the surrounding cottages was both extensive and precise, and Wallis, much pleased with the results, was seen to rub his hands gleefully. Indeed, the scientist deemed the occasion worthy of a group portrait, a copy of which Mr Darvell has treasured ever since.

It is certainly unusual for a mustard-related weapon to have attracted such high-profile attention as late as 1943. In the event, because of the limited gas capacity and the instantaneous fuzing necessary to prevent burying of the liquid charging (which would diminish the effectiveness of the HE component against robust buildings, railways and wharves), it was assessed that the 'mixed stick' concept with HE and CW bombs appropriate to targets, was superior. There was no further development of the HE/Chem bomb.

The pub had been chosen as the target in an experiment designed to test the effectiveness of a prototype poison gas weapon. The experimental 250lb HE/Chem bombs emerged from a concept that, if the UK had to retaliate in kind with chemical weapons in the event of an Axis poison gas attack,

tactical use of mustard gas might be enhanced by the use of a bomb which had both vesicant charging and high explosive to combine physical damage with contamination of debris, as an alternative to the use of a mixed stick of bombs. (See also *After the Battle* No. 79).

Damage of another kind was inflicted after the arrival of the US Eighth Air Force in East Anglia. In the scramble to build new airfields in the region, thousands of tons of shingle were systematically removed from the beach to provide hard core for runways. This was achieved at some cost to the environment, since the sea has crept roughly 40 yards closer to the houses since extraction ceased in 1944.



The mines in the Suffolk East Anglian District were all lifted by 10 Bomb Disposal Company between December 1944 and November 1945 although a couple of tricky fields at Slaughden were not cleared until late the following year. To qualify for a Type 1 clearance certificate, all mines laid in a field had to be accounted for, although the proviso was always made with beach mines that mines could be washed up from other fields. At Shingle Street, for example, of the 317 mines laid in Field 54/98, 216 were found, 30 blown in situ and 67 others accounted for by craters. In Field 54/99, all 50 mines laid were found but the existence of more mines in an unrecorded field in between only came to light when a fatal accident occurred. As a result, another 80 mines were lifted, a large amount of scrap metal removed and derelict huts cleared.

In addition to the Wallis bomb, spring 1943 saw other secret weapons arrive in the area. To the north of Shingle Street and Hollesley lay the Orford Battle Training Area, residents of which included the 79th Armoured Division. In April 1943, the 79th had been reorganised as an armoured engineering unit equipped with 'Funnies' — specially-adapted tanks designed to breach the Atlantic Wall during the D-Day landings. The division remained in the Orford area until early 1944 and carried out much training there. On at least one occasion, waterproofing trials with Duplex Drive 'swimming' tanks were conducted at Shingle Street, although there is no evidence that Crocodile flame-throwing tanks were tested with catastrophic results.

As peace in Europe crept nearer, there came no relief for the long-suffering population of Shingle Street. Although in October 1944 it was noted that the village had been prioritised for mine clearance before the end of the year, by April 1945 the military regretfully informed the MoHS that 'Shingle Street in short cannot be looked upon as a potential habitable hamlet, but as an extremely dangerous and awkward minefield'.

This dour assessment proved all too accurate. Those houses not damaged by the 1943 bombing had suffered equally from five years of weather and neglect. Rendered uninhabitable, many were written off as total losses. The partial devastation wrought on the Lifeboat Inn by Barnes Wallis had been completed two years later by a raiding party from Bawdsey Manor, which dynamited the shell of the inn for its timber while constructing a VE-Day bonfire.

The removal of the beach mines continued well into 1945, and residents who wished to return to the blasted village were obliged to wait years, rather than months. The compensation offered was meagre, and much delayed due to Whitehall wrangling between the War Office and the MoHS. Ronald Harris, whose bungalow *Ronina* beside the Lifeboat Inn was damaged beyond repair, waited until 1949 for a new, more permanent house to be completed. Even as late as 1948, Archie White described the once 'busy and prosperous' hamlet as 'blown to pieces . . . nothing is left but large deep ponds between the houses and the sea to show where the river once ran'.

Plans to build a new Lifeboat Inn were thwarted when Mrs Pritchard-Carr won the single available victualler's licence and opened a tea shop. Shingle Street never regained its status as a working fishing village, and instead became the near-exclusive domain of the weekend fisherman, the watercolour artist and the hardy rambler; and, in 1992, the ill-briefed journalist hungry for a fanciful scoop on the 'invasion that never was'.

Although many legends have attached to Shingle Street in the past half-century, only the events described above are factual. Ultimately, the story of Shingle Street is the story of two identical myths separated only by time. One, the more modern, bears witness to the boundless credulity engendered by the media age. The second, older and wiser, stands as a testament to the potent effect of unavowable black propaganda and psychological warfare. That, however, is another story . . .

This article is extracted from James Hayward's book Shingle Street — Flame, Chemical and Psychological Warfare in 1940, and the Nazi Invasion that Never Was, *which includes the first published account of the SOE's black 'invasion that failed' operation. The book is available from LTM Publishing, 40 Prior Way, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5DH, price £6.95 plus postage and packing: £1.20 in the UK, £2.00 in the EEC, and £2.50 elsewhere (cheques payable to J. Nice).*

D-DAY THEN AND NOW

Next month, June 1994, sees the anniversary of what must be the most significant of all the wartime operations which took place 50 years ago. The landings in Normandy continue to capture the imagination, and the events planned for the 50th Anniversary are bound to focus all our attention on the world's most ambitious military undertaking, combining land, sea, and air forces.

Operation 'Overlord' — its choice of codename adding to the mystique — has over the past five decades spawned hundreds of books, thousands of articles and millions of words, leaving very little unsaid. As the first of a new spate of publications began to roll from the presses late last year, one reviewer promptly commented that 'the 50th anniversary of D-Day . . . has almost certainly triggered one of those disastrous operations in publishing overkill, with wave after wave of books doomed to pulping machines'.

With *After the Battle*, I hope we have never been guilty of 'cashing in' on events in our efforts to re-tell the well-known (as well as covering the little-known) events of the Second World War in the style to which you have become accustomed. This is one of the reasons why *D-Day Then and Now* has not appeared before the anniversary as I felt that to make it truly significant, we should take our comparison photographs 50 years after the events portrayed. Some pictures are even being taken *exactly* 50 years later — we began by visiting Eisenhower's first office in Grosvenor Square, London, on the very day when he held his first photo-call in 1944 — January 18 — then, as this year, falling on a Tuesday. And so it goes on with comparisons still to be taken next month in Normandy.

In keeping with this theme, I have also decided to let the commanders of the period tell the story for us. 'Overlord' has been written up so many times by authors of all persuasions that there is very little which can still be said — Normandy, quite frankly, has been done to death. That is why I have elected to let those who led the forces in 1944 describe what took place in their own words: General George C. Marshall, Chief-of-Staff of the US Army, has written our Prelude; General Eisenhower the Introduction, and so on. Other contributions by General Richard Gale of the 6th Airborne Division; Generals Matthew Ridgway and Maxwell Taylor, commanding generals of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions; General Montgomery and General Bradley, and other military commanders of both sides, set the scene and take us through the first ten days of battle to the point where the five individual beaches become a single beach-head.

As *D-Day Then and Now* will include a final chapter on the events taking place in June 1994, this is where I would like to invite you to take part. It will be impossible for us to be everywhere at once, so please send me your photographs of D-Day events, be they of the dedication of memorials, rallies, commemoration services, or whatever — even your own comparison photographs — send them to me and I will endeavour to include as many as possible. It does not matter where they are taken — Britain, France, America or wherever — as I want to include as wide a cross-section as possible. And please make sure you include caption details.

D-Day Then and Now will be a unique souvenir of the 50th anniversary . . . and well worth waiting for.

Meanwhile, as a prelude to invasion, we are launching *UK Airfields of the Ninth Then and Now* by Roger Freeman. Roger needs no introduction to aficionados of that other US air force, the Eighth, with many books to his name, including our own *Airfields of the Eighth Then and Now*. Now, Roger presents the history of the sixty-odd airfields used by the Ninth Air Force, specially created for the invasion of Europe. Its widely-scattered airfields — from the troop-carrying fields of the Midlands and central Southern England to the fighter-bomber bases in Essex and the advanced landing grounds in Kent and Hampshire, not forgetting the support bases in the West Country — are all covered with comparison photographs on the ground and from the air by *After the Battle*.

As far as this issue is concerned, as in 1984 for the 40th anniversary, I decided to feature one of the lesser-known aspects of the operation, rather than the actual landings. Compared to Hitler's bomb-proof Führer-bunkers, the Allied Supreme Headquarters were flimsy, being adaptations of existing buildings without protection against direct hits. Even so, SHAEF Main HQ in Bushy Park survived several near misses from flying bombs only to succumb to the bulldozer in the 1960s. Likewise, in the 1970s, no one was interested in preserving the historic board-room in Norfolk House which Eisenhower said 'will always occupy a place in British and American history.' Sad indeed that all has been swept away within 50 short years of the most significant event in our living history.

THE EDITOR

Brana Radovic's excellent comparison of the scene on Sword Beach is featured in our *Normandy Photo Album*, which we have specially produced to allow visitors to the Normandy beach-head to take their own 'then and now' comparison photographs.